



## Transwoman Transforms Hearts and Minds

### Former Navy Seal Shares Story of Self-Actualization



Photo Credit: Twitter

Kristen Beck, former Navy Seal and transwoman advocating for equality

Jordan Loux  
Staff Writer

An ex-soldier spoke at Alfred State on March 25 about the scars she had collected in battle as part of her college speaking tour. However, these were no ordinary scars, and this was no ordinary soldier. Her name was Kristin Beck, and her war was being accepted as a transgender woman.

Beck was born Christopher Beck in the small town of Wellsville, New York. She was the middle child of the family, with an older brother and younger sister, as well as two other sisters. She would later become a Navy Seal and take part in 13 missions over the span of 20 years, even becoming a member of Seal Team 6, the counter-terrorism unit whose members killed Osama Bin Laden in 2011.

Beck was also the subject of a documentary called "Lady Valor" which delves into her life and her part in the struggle for transgender acceptance. It was played in The Terra Cotta Coffee House on March 23 in preparation for Beck's visit.

Beck's battle of self-discovery began as far back as second or third grade, when she realized that was not born as the correct gender. In "Lady Valor," Beck said she would fake being sick so she could stay alone at home and walk around the house in a dress and put on nail polish.

Beck did not truly come out until she left The Navy Seals. The number of seals in support of Beck's transition is around half-and-half, according to a newscaster in "Lady Valor." The

documentary also showed the struggle of Beck's parents to acclimate to this change, which came easier for her father.

"Why can't you be normal and just be gay," said Beck's mother, who did not take part in the documentary, when Christopher finally came out as Kristin to the family.

Beck's personal story was also one of acceptance and growth, both for her and the people around her. In "Lady Valor," Beck showed a bar that she frequents filled with friends. At first they all wanted Beck to leave, but one recognized her from the news, and they all became friends once they got to know her.

Beck's story was also one of kindness, as heard in a story told during her talk about how she chose not to kill a man during a firefight when she was a Navy Seal, even after that man was reaching for his AK-47. Beck later met that man at a bazaar near the base, where the man hugged her and thanked her for sparing him. Beck and the man shared tea in his shop, at a discount.

"Don't clench that fist," she said. "Shake that hand."

Even with the wars she has fought in, Beck said the constant abuse she receives for just being herself leaves the deepest scars. This ranges from slurs and insults posted on social media to being sucker punched and stomped on by four men on a sidewalk in Tampa, F.L.

"All you're trying to do is live your life in peace," Beck said sadly.

But change is in progress, and Beck is standing at the forefront of it. She has spoken with higher-ups in the military about reform, such as letting trans individuals serve freely in the military.

The documentary said that being outed as transgender will result in that soldier being discharged, since they were not covered in the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Beck estimated that there are around 15,000 transgender individuals serving in the military today and hiding their true selves.

"I'm qualified. I can serve," Beck said, soon happily stating her plans to run for Congress in 2016.

Along with letting transgender people serve openly, Beck also plans to put an end to conversion therapy, a harmful practice where a person's sexual orientation or gender identification is forcefully changed, usually with disastrous results including suicide. She explained it as being born with blue eyes and getting beaten with a bible until you believe that they are green.

Change is a two-way street. To be able to accept others as they are we first need to accept ourselves for what we are, she said. For Beck, that means looking past labels that create narrow groups and just seeing people as people.

"I'm Kristin Beck, and I'm the only one," Beck said, excited to answer questions from the audience.

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## What the Frack?

### Fiat Reporter Investigates Hydrofracking Controversy in Alfred



Photo Credit: YouTube

Mayor Justin Grigg, Trustees Virginia Rasumssen & Tom McDowell at last year's moratorium

Franchesca Feliz

Managing Editor  
Although the debate is not over, hydrofracking is banned in the town of Alfred, according to many residents.

"It's banned, but it's not settled," Alfred Trustee Virginia Rasmussen said. "We're a small jurisdiction, and the oil and gas industries are very power-

ful and have friends in high political places."

The controversy in New York state behind hydrofracking, a technique where water, chemicals and sand are pumped under high pressure into a well, extends into Alfred. Three years ago, the town of Alfred passed a hydrofracking moratorium, which

temporarily prohibited any fracking activity. The village was not included, so, soon after, they had to pass their own moratorium. This gave the village more time to investigate the dangers of hydrofracking. Last December, the town of Alfred banned hydrofracking. In January, the village unanimously voted to pass the ban as well.

According to Chairman of Concerned Citizens of Allegany County (CCAC) Frederick Sinclair, hydrofracking is banned from Alfred, but we still take on waste from Pennsylvania.

Sinclair said the hydrofracking debate is not over due to the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Treaty, which enables foreign corporations to take action against towns like Alfred. He said although it has not been signed yet, if it is, it can take hydrofracking out of Alfred's hands.

Sinclair argues hydrofracking is clearly bad for our environment, but corporations are greedy and only care to benefit themselves.

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“A recent court decision said that corporations can be considered as people,” said Sinclair, “If they are, they are sociopaths.”

The dangers of hydrofracking are plentiful, according to critics. One major problem is it swallows up a lot of water, says Rasmussen. Some 30 to 40 percent of the water comes back up from a hydrofracking site, and it is full of toxic radioactivity, she said. Not only is this dangerous to clean up, it is also very costly. Some of the remains of fracking are injected back into the earth in order to make people forget it ever happened, which can also cause earthquakes. Fracking uses up and contaminates streams and groundwater, which in turn contaminates drinking water.

“Safety hazards are the biggest concerns community members and lawmakers have with fracking,” Alfred Councilman and AU ITS administrator Fion MacCrea said.

But that’s not all. Rasmussen says studies show that renewable energy provides jobs. But such jobs are “short-lived,” she said. A worker drills the well until it’s dry, and that is it. The jobs are not secure, she added.

In addition, there are high asthma rates because of hydrofracking, said Rasmussen. It pollutes the air with various chemicals all at once. It can damage the endocrine, neurological, and pulmonary systems in the human body, added Rasmussen.

“This is a horribly destructive technology,” Rasmussen said, “I am very opposed to it.”

Sinclair believes that humans make the problems much bigger. If the human race stops its greed, ignorance, and unconsciousness to the impact on the environment, the world would be a better place to live in, he said.

“People need to become informed,” said Sinclair. “They need to learn not to place their own benefits before others.”

# Dedicated to her Duties

## Village Clerk, Kathryn Koegel Helps Village run Smoothly



Photo Credit: Facebook  
Village Clerk Kathryn Koegel

Franchesca Feliz  
Managing Editor

Clerk-treasurer Kathryn Koegel may be the chief financial officer and general administrative officer of Alfred, but whenever she can, she is also a soccer mom.

“I have three children, two girls and one boy,” Koegel said. “I go to their soccer games as much as I can.”

In 2005, she almost lost her son to a rare condition where only half his heart is well-developed, hypoplastic heart disease. The moment she was able to hold him again motivates her in everything she does today. Wheth-

er it be calculating Alfred’s budget or cheering her children on at their soccer games, Koegel lives every day for her family. She grew up in Wellsville and graduated from Alfred University in 1994, where she majored in accounting and minored in psychology. Koegel has been at her job for seven years thus far, and although the job is a handful, she loves Alfred and the people she works with.

“I don’t know if I would have stuck around here if it wasn’t for Alfred,” said Koegel.

Koegel’s office hours are from 9-4, but she often finds herself working overtime. She’s extremely dedicated to what she does, and she does not let the large workload overwhelm her. According to Koegel, everything pertaining to meetings and laws are her responsibility and she is always interacting with the public.

“In addition to her work, in relation to all village employees, trustees and mayor, she is in relationship with the general public whenever they choose to access her by phone, e-mail or an office visit,” said Alfred trustee Virginia Rasmussen. “This happens a lot, by the way.”

According to Rasmussen, Koegel prioritizes well, keeps things in perspective and still manages to have a sense of humor. She says that Koegel’s job has many aspects to it, and she fulfills every responsibility.

“Her wide-ranging responsibilities include: finances, accounting, budget-

ing, technology/computing know-how, communicating with all kinds of people in all kinds of roles, record-keeping, organizing and maintaining an office in top-notch order,” Rasmussen said.

Koegel is not only a people-person, but also a hugely responsible village employee that deserves much respect. Mayor Justin Grigg describes her as a genuine, unique and essential village staff member. He says that one of the things he really appreciates since becoming mayor is working with Koegel.

“She’s sort of the front door for anything village-related,” Grigg said. “It’s great that we have someone as capable as she is.”

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# Budget Burdens

Franchesca Feliz  
Managing Editor

Mayor Justin Grigg and the village of Alfred are actively trying to improve the village’s budget deficit.

“We’re moving in the right direction, but we’re not completely out of this problem yet,” Grigg said.

The village of Alfred’s budget is about \$2.3 million, according to Grigg. Out of \$400,000 in expenses that could not be paid, \$300,000 in projects have been deferred to another year, he said. Six full time police officers are now five, and trash pick-up no longer allows anything big on curbs to cut down costs.

To get some advice on cutting costs, the village applied to the Financial Restructuring Board and got accepted. The board recommended two ways to fix the budget: shared services or dissolution. Shared services requires partnering up with others and dissolution consists of dissolving the village of Alfred, leaving the town of Alfred. According to Grigg, “shared services” is a necessity. He wishes to partner with the town of Alfred and the village of Wellsville. Doing this can save money on street services, like plowing and more. He would also like to explore dissolution. Before taking action, he says he needs to be more knowledgeable and understand what will change.

“We’re reconfiguring services in an effort to balance the budget,” Grigg

said.

There are three main categories in the budget: the general fund, water fund, and sewer fund. The biggest chunk of the budget, from the general fund, goes to Alfred’s police department. According to Alfred’s clerk-treasurer Kathryn Koegel, under Grigg and Chief Paul Griffith’s leadership, the police staff now consists of only five people with extra coverage by part-time officers. Koegel explained how Alfred’s budget benefitted from this.

The chief and officers were willing to be resourceful and restructure their services due to budgetary constraints, she said. According to Koegel, this has been the most significant budget impact Alfred has seen in years. Still, the fact that Alfred is a college town presents some negatives when it comes to finances.

According to Alfred trustee Virginia Rasmussen, over 90 percent of the village does not pay taxes. That number consists of Alfred University and Alfred State College. Rasmussen believes that since the schools receive services from Alfred, they should at least be contributing something to the village. AU voluntarily contributes \$65,000, but Alfred State does not contribute anything. To Rasmussen, this is unfair.

“I think we are in this together,” Rasmussen said. “We need to find better and more supportive ways to be there

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# FIATLUX

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# Drumroll Please

## Fiat Reporter Finds Her Rhythm



Cheyenne Rainford  
Editor In Chief

The sound of drum beats spilled into the narrow hallway outside a classroom in Alfred University’s (AU) Miller Performing Arts Center (MPAC) at 7 p.m. on March 25, inviting in anyone curious enough to peek through the doorway.

Dustin Woodard, who has given private percussion lessons at AU for the last three years, organized the first of what he hopes to be many drum circle events this semester. He says his students initially thought of having a drum circle and that he simply wanted to see the idea come to fruition.

Upon entering the space, newcomers could borrow any drum, tambourine or shaker they liked from a pile in the center of the circle. Then, they found a seat and joined in whenever they felt ready. Woodard started with the basics, giving a crash course in beginner drumming techniques and mini-lectures on the various kinds of drums available to play.

The sound was akin to the echo of many soldiers’ boots marching as the group moved through a series of warm-ups and exercises. The floor and chairs in which we sat vibrated to the beat.

One exercise involved each drummer selecting one of four beats in a single measure, a section of a musical composition that defines the rhythm of the piece, on which to strike their instrument. Some would strike on beat two while others might choose beat one or four. The result was an organized chaos of sound.

“Every time we do this it sounds a little different,” said Woodard after the first couple of rounds.

Olivia Juarez, one of Woodard’s percussion students, brought her own djembe, an African drum shaped like a goblet that tapers downward to its base. Though she purchased it at a music store at home in Chicago, she says hers is originally from Ghana. Dr. Cecilia Beach, who teaches French at AU, also brought a djembe.

“[It has] a really full sound for such a

Photo Credit: Cheyenne Rainford  
Overview of the drum circle

little drum,” said Beach.

Other drums available for use included Spanish congos and a Peruvian cajon, also known as a box drum. The latter gave off a particularly buzzy, static noise thanks to the snare wires on the inside. These wires vibrate when the drum is struck, resulting in a metallic hiss.

Woodard favored the gourd, himself. This name is literal. It consists of a hollowed gourd with beads woven intricately into a mesh around its wide base. The drummer holds the gourd by its neck and may tap, pat, flick, shake or rattle the beads to their content.

Another activity was a combination of singing and drumming. Attempting to recite lyrics, a left-brained action, and maintain the beat, a right-brained action, was challenging. For this, Woodard chose “Funga Alafia,” an African welcoming song, which loosely translates to “We welcome you. Do you welcome me?”

The group concluded the evening by inviting one among them to take center circle and dance. The dancer was to be a maestro in motion as the drummers tried to match his pace and movement with their sound. Within minutes, it was as though the group had rehearsed this exercise many times.

The most striking aspect of the experience was the sensation of leaving the room. Like stepping off a boat, it took a few wobbly steps to recall the stillness of solid ground.



Photo Credit: Cheyenne Rainford  
Professor Cecelia Beach on her djembe



Photo Credit: Cheyenne Rainford  
Dustin Woodard on the gourd



# Broadway Review

## New Shows Star A-listers

Sydney Walter  
Broadway Columnist

With spring here and summer just around the corner, Broadway is being a powerhouse and pumping out new musicals and shows, as well as vamping up the old ones! New shows include:

### *Finding Neverland*

**Starring Matthew Morrison (*Glee*) and Laura Michelle Kelly (*Sweeney Todd*)**

“Finding Neverland” follows the story of author J.M. Barrie and his relationship with the family of widow Sylvia Llewelyn Davies, who eventually became Barrie’s inspiration to write Peter Pan.

“The musical explores the power of imagination to open up new worlds, and the pressures put upon those worlds by the inevitability of growing up,” according to [broadway.com](#).

Opening for this show will be April 15, 2015. Shows will be on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8:00 p.m, Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. Monday is “Dark Day” on Broadway.

### *Gigi*

**Starring Vanessa Ann Hudgens (*High*)**



### *School Musical*

“Set during the turn of the 20th century, *Gigi* tells the story of a free-spirited teenage girl living in Paris who is groomed (in the custom of her family) to serve as a companion to a bored, wealthy playboy until the pair realize they have fallen in love,” reads the description on [broadway.com](#).

Opening for this show will be April 8, 2015. Shows will be Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

### *An American In Paris*

**Starring Robert Fairchild (*The Little Duchess*) and Jill Piace (*The 39th Steps*)**

“An American in Paris is the romantic story of a young American soldier, a beautiful French girl and an indomitable European city, each yearning for a new beginning in the aftermath of war” reads [broadway.com](#).

Opening for this show will be April 12, 2015. Shows will be Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

**...And many more, such as *Doctor Zhivago* and *On The Town*.**

As summer approaches, more shows will come in with big A-list Hollywood stars, but do not forget about the classics that are still on Broadway as well, such as *Wicked*, *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Book of Mormon*. If you are looking for a tentative schedule or want to see what other shows will be hitting the stage or are already there, [broadway.com](#), [theatremania.com](#) and [tix4students.com](#) are all great websites to visit and buy tickets from. They offer information about shows and have video clips and schedules.



**Quintin Reed**  
**Bergren Columnist**

It would not be a Bergren Forum if the speaker was not suffering from some ailment. Associate professor of art, Dale Inglett was not excused from these ranks as he presented his Artist Talk while fighting a cold.

Inglett has recently been working on drawings and paintings which touch on phenomenal experiences, notions of the sublime and structure. His lecture explored the meaning of these topics and referenced other artists who work with similar ideas.

Inglett began by explaining his process, the actions taken by an artist where they encounter an idea explore it and then create or bring that idea to life through a medium. The process is individualized and varies on the idea being entertained. Inglett explained his process on the paintings and drawings he has been focusing on recently:

“I make a mess and then I figure out

# Bergren Breakdown

## “Perception and Experience: An Artist’s Talk”

how to resolve it,” he said.

This process helps Inglett explore “form, movement and visual phenomena,” Inglett said, explaining the direction his art has taken for his recent projects. From this point in his lecture, Inglett moved us through visual and literal examples of what form, movement and phenomena are and how they have been explored by other artists. Some notable artists that have also explored these themes have been: Olafur Eliasson, Thomas Eakins, David Friedrich, and Friedrich Edwin Church.

Inglett challenged us to think about the abilities we possess in this modern age with the help of cameras, video recorders and airplanes. He proved that there is no limit to what we physically see. He explains how a mountain that extends and vanishes into the clouds can also be seen from above as an island in a sea of clouds “splashing” against it.

Many of the visual phenomena he showed the audience, through photographs, he referred to as “things.” Things are not a label, but a category, and they possess an amount of ambiguity and their function can be explored but not pigeonholed to a set of canonical ideas about it. For example, a mountain derives a different set of thoughts than a geological thing.

Another aspect Inglett enlightened was how visual phenomena lead to “a romantic idea of what the sublime is.” The natural power of the world, its awe and mystery and at the same time this terrifying power of destruction. Artists had to witness things firsthand and remember, but Inglett again expressed the possibilities of the modern world: images, shared online, give people perspective that would be otherwise unknown.



Photo Credit: daleinglett.com  
Inglett working on a piece

# Tinder

## Is Tinder the cause of Increasing Numbers of STI’s in AU and ASC?

**Zakary Klick**  
**Guest Writer**

There is a merging between AU and ASC like never before. In the past, STIs that have found their way into AU have primarily stayed at AU. The same goes for ASC says AU Health and Wellness Center Director and psychologist Stanley Tam.

Yet, this past school year, an invisible string seems to tie ASC to AU. When one’s STI numbers rise, the other follows. That string is likely connected to Tinder, a popular dating app, says Tam.

Tam bases this belief on Wellness Center discussions with students who had, or currently have, an STI. For example, when asked how their STI may have come about, several say that Tinder may have led to their infectious “hook up.”

Last year the AU Health and Wellness Center confirmed only a small handful of cases of chlamydia, but this year, there are already 25 confirmed cases, Tam explained.



**Photo Credit: Google Images**  
**The Tinder Logo**

Director and psychologist, Steve Byrne. Byrne credits this to students being uncomfortable with “old traditions” like face-to-face approaches, unavoidably leaving a potential for rejection. At a time when students are desperately looking for social acceptance, a public rejection could seem detrimental.

Therefore, students may be more willing to use Tinder-like programs and risk STI accumulation, rather than face the traditional ways of rejection.

In The New York Times article released after Tinder’s two-year mark last year, Tinder claimed to have almost 50 million active users, amassing about 50 percent of its population through college students.

Wanting to see if the app had the same popularity at AU, this reporter asked AU students in an unscientific poll if they had ever used Tinder. The conclusions roughly matched the study’s, yet also found that most males and one-half the females claimed to have used the app at AU.

While not every AU student interviewed admitted to using the app to “hook up,” they unanimously agreed that Tinder is primarily used for that reason.

AU student, Stephen Montfort, says

## CONTINUED FROM PG. 2

for each other as a community.”

Because the colleges are the 90 percent that does not pay taxes, Alfred is forced to raise its property tax rate. It is currently at a highly assessed value of about \$16.9 per every thousand dollars, according to Grigg. In simpler terms, if a house has a value of 100,000 dollars, then the owner must pay about 1,690 dollars in taxes. This is the ninth highest rate for villages, according to Rasmussen. Other communities’ property taxes are much lower than this, but that is because the communities have access to sales tax, which Alfred is denied, according to Grigg. This allows other communities to tax residents less on their properties.

“We continue to raise taxes to make sure revenues cover expenses,” Rasmussen said. “To stop raising, we would need to ask ourselves questions like: What roads won’t we pave?”

Many projects have been delayed because of a lack of funds, but some simply cannot be pushed back any further. According to Grigg, money has been taken out of Alfred’s savings funds to make necessary projects happen, such as services to the citizens like snow removal and maintaining infrastructure. Koegel also believes postponing projects is not ideal.

During times of economic hardship it becomes especially important to function with high efficiency and productivity,” Koegel said.

In the tentative budget for next year, which covers June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015, the village tax rate will go up by two percent, according to Koegel. This budget will be discussed in a public hearing on April 14, where villagers will get a chance to give feedback, according to Rasmussen.

When it comes to improving the budget, Grigg will not stop until “deficit” no longer describes the situation. “In two years, we’ve moved one-third of the way there,” Grigg said. “I’m hoping in another two years, we can be where we need to be.”

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# What Are Athletes Really Worth?

Brilla shares her opinion on athlete salaries

Lauren Brilla  
Sports Columnist

Wouldn't it be nice to earn a ridiculous amount of money just to play a childhood game like baseball or football? Some athletes get paid as much as teachers do in an entire year to make a single slam dunk. Do pro-athletes actually deserve all that money?

In my mind, the answer is simple: absolutely not! What makes professional athletes superior to any CEO's or lawyers? Some major league athletes make more than the most experienced surgeons who repair hearts, brains and limbs.

Our very own president works day and night, making important economic and governmental decisions that affect every American's life. How much does he earn? Roughly \$400,000 a year. Meanwhile, the newest rookie player in major league baseball sits in a dugout and rakes in much more. In fact, the average basketball player's salary is



Photo Credit: Facebook

Lauren Brilla

\$5.84 million.

Our country and businesses should be spending valuable money on areas of our society that need help. In the minds of many, athletes already have enough money and a more than comfortable lifestyle. All they have to do is play a sport, a sport that millions of people would play for free if given the

chance. Then what do some athletes do with their money? They spend it on drugs or steroids to make their performance better.

I realize that athletes work hard and have a tremendous amount of pressure put on them from fans and coaches, but should that really be a valid excuse to get paid in extreme amounts?

Anyone who has a job or a family has just as much pressure put on them too. They deal with the daily tasks of life that need to be accomplished, but they don't earn millions of dollars by doing so.

People wonder where all the money comes from to pay these athletes. The answer is simple. It comes from the fans, the same fans that cry when their team loses and cheer when they win. Yet, the fans are the ones who get charged \$6 for a single hot dog. It's not like ticket prices stay the same either. They gradually rise every year.

It's time to put a stop to this money madness. Sports teams need to stop giving in to their athletes and start paying them an appropriate salary for the job they do. If athletes have a problem with that proposal, then maybe they should quit playing the sport they "love so much" and start "playing for the fun of it."

# AU Athlete on the Fast Track

Saxon trackstar among top in the nation

Lauren Brilla  
Sports Columnist

In many ways, Miasia Hillman personifies the Saxons women's track and field team this season. She's experienced, talented and willing to persevere through an injury and she has recorded her best season yet, posting a 60-meter time that earned her a spot as second in the nation.

"All the support from my family, friends and teammates has been my motivation," Hillman said. "Winning and seeing that I can do good things has kept me going."

The Buffalo native, majoring in criminal justice, began running in fifth grade. She then quit running to enjoy school and friends. She started running again during her junior year of high school and has dominated ever since.

Although she runs year round, AU's official track season is November through May. The women's team placed 8th in the New York State indoor track and field championships. Hillman has four more indoor track meets and eight outdoor meets, culminating with Nationals.

Hillman ran a 7.7 second in the 60-meter sprint on Jan. 24 at Brockport, which put her second in the nation.

"Winning Nationals is my ultimate goal," Hillman said. "Set them high."

Unfortunately, just three short days after her memorable meet at Brockport, Hillman suffered a serious injury. She felt intense pain while running and had to be examined. With two inverted knees and a tilted kneecap, her game plan was about to change.

"I was out for two weeks, so a lot of other people ran and competed and were able to post better times than me, dropping me to 7th in the nation," Hillman said. "I know I can make a come back," she added.

Hillman's AU coach, Bill Sortore, has watched her grow and excel on the



Photo Credit: gosaxons.com

Miasia Hillman

track.

"Miasia came to us with only one year of track running experience," he said. "She was challenged day one by senior Jordan Larkins. "Jordan told her to attack her opportunity right from the start and it will pay off. She did, and it did."

Hillman's daily schedule is rigorous since her injury occurred.

"I have rehab every single day, and

then I go to practice," said Hillman.

"I'm getting better, but I'll just have to learn to work with the pain."

To keep herself going during difficult times, she looks up to Olympic gold medalist Allison Felix, who she follows her on twitter and instagram.

"She retweeted me, and I was so happy," she said. "I always look at what she says and does for motivation."

As far as becoming an Olympian

like Felix, Hillman doesn't see that as her future.

"It would be nice to reach for the Olympics, but it would have to be my life, and I want to do other stuff," she said.

The team is counting on Hillman to continue racing at peak performance for the rest of the season in both indoor and outdoor meets. Senior AU track runner, Sean Locker, knows she won't disappoint.

"This year has been her standout year because she's more focused on beating her time than winning," he said. "Miasia takes action when she wants something. It has been a pleasure to run alongside her for four years."

Hillman stresses that if she wants to be first in the nation, she must pay attention to the details of her race like sprints, starts and drills.

"Right now, it's all about staying focused and motivated because I have a goal of running a 7.5 in the 60 meter either at the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) or at Nationals," says Hillman.

Hillman has a lot of pressure to perform, accompanied with a great deal of pain. But she says she will somehow find a balance between the two to overcome the obstacles.

"I love to race, and I'm willing to put in the work now to be better later," Hillman concluded.



# Lightning Strikes

## Isiah Young drafted to American Indoor Football League

Michael Steffan  
Guest Writer

It was a brisk November day last semester when the Saxons fell to top rival St. John Fisher in disheartening fashion to cap a season of mediocrity. Per Alfred University tradition, the graduating seniors congregated at the fifty yard and posed for a photo, a keepsake to remember the last time they stepped foot on the field. One by one the tattered Saxons made their way from the pit up to the McLane center, never to play the game again—all except for one.

AU Senior tight end Isiah Young, weighing 210 pounds and standing at 6 feet 2 inches tall, has been drafted by the Buffalo Lightning of the American Indoor Football (AIF) league.

“To be drafted into the AIF means that all the hard work I have put into the game to reach the professional level has paid off,” said Young. “It was always a dream of mine to get paid to play the game I love, so this means everything to me.”

Young was chosen 23rd overall by the Buffalo Lightning, a first-year franchise. The AIF is a nine-team league that was founded in 2006. Including the Buffalo Lightning, the league’s other teams are the ASI Panthers, Atlanta Sharks, Chicago Blitz, Cleveland Saints, Saginaw Sting, Savannah Steam, Maryland Eagles and York Capitals.

After an impressive career at AU, it’s no surprise Young will go on to compete at the professional level. Young has amassed an impressive repertoire



Photo Credit: gosaxons.com

Youngs dodges a member of the opposing team

of awards and achievements including the 2013 Empire 8 second team All-Conference, 2014 Empire 8 First team All-Conference, 2014 pre-season All-American, 2014 team offensive MVP, 2014 season team captain and 2015 USA college football All-American.

Yet with such an impressive track record of personal achievements, those who know Young best say that it is his reliability and toughness that set him apart from the pack.

“What set Isiah apart from most was that whenever we needed him to step up and make a big play, he was always there,” said Josh Meeks, Young’s tight end coach for the past two seasons.

## Saxons vs. Faucons Up North



Michael Steffan  
Guest Writer

The Alfred University football team is scheduled to play an exhibition game in Quebec City, Canada on May 17.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to give our student athletes a cultural experience that they wouldn’t otherwise get,” said Brent Barnes, AU’s Defensive Coordinator.

The game will take place against the Faucons of Cégep de Lévis-Lauzon, a Quebec City university. Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Players and coaches will make the nine-hour trip Friday, and will spend Saturday in downtown Quebec City sightseeing and touring the city.

The entire game will be played under the Canadian rules of football, which will take a bit of adjusting. For instance, the game will be played with three downs rather than the traditional four down series in American football.

Also, each team will have 12 players on the field at any given time rather than 11.

“I think only playing three downs is going to be the biggest difference,” said Sonny Caruso, a junior offensive lineman.

On top of the cultural experience players will be afforded, Barnes also mentioned that the extra padded spring practices don’t hurt either in preparing the team for their upcoming season and simulating game-like situations. The team currently has 10 padded practices scheduled this Spring.

“I think it will be cool. I don’t know much about the city, so I’m excited to see what it’s all about,” said junior fullback Joe Ryan.

“No matter what, he always did everything he could to be on the field making plays for his team, even if that meant playing with an injury,” said Meeks.

Meeks mentioned a particular instance when Young was hampered by a strained Achilles tendon in a pivotal matchup against Utica. With the Saxons’ playoff hopes hanging in the balance, Young not only played through the agonizing pain, but he flourished under the adverse circumstances. Young finished the game with seven receptions for 79 yards and a touchdown, leading the team in all three categories. When his team needed him the most, Young sacrificed his body for

the greater good of his team.

Having been raised by a single mother for most of his childhood, Young knows the importance of reliability—being there and doing the job regardless of the circumstances—a mentality inherited from his mom.

“Honestly, my mother has to be the biggest role model in my life,” said Young. “Having raised my siblings and I as a single mother, I could always rely on her driving me to practice, the gym, games and always pushing me to be the best football player I could be.”

Good practice habits are another often mentioned attribute of Young’s.

Steve Koepnick, a junior defensive lineman, says after frequently going against Young in practice that he brings the same amount of intensity each day, setting him apart from most.

“His work ethic in practice was always second to none,” Koepnick said.

Depending on the contract Young signs, he will earn between \$500 and 1,000 per game. As a result, Young has a job lined up as a bouncer/bartender at a local Buffalo nightclub, which he has been doing for several years now.

This year, the regular season started on March 20. Due to school conflicts, Young is set to join the Lightning either toward the end of the 2015 season or for the start of next season.



## AU Sweeps RIT

ALFRED, NY – The host AU softball team swept a non-league doubleheader from visiting RIT Thursday afternoon. The Saxons won the first game, 6-1, before completing the sweep with a 3-2 victory in the nightcap.

In the opener, Alfred (12-2) scored single runs in the first, second and fourth innings to take a 3-0 lead. RIT (3-9) plated its lone run in the top of the sixth before AU closed out the scoring with three insurance runs in the bottom of the frame.

Sophomore third baseman Liz Thompson went 4-for-4 with a double, two runs scored and two driven in to back the three-hit complete performance of senior pitcher Alison Wickwire. Wickwire allowed an unearned run while striking out 11 to improve to 4-1 on the year.

Junior shortstop Nicole Maher went 2-for-4 with two RBIs; junior outfielder Samantha Jauregui was 2-for-4 with

two runs scored; and senior outfielder Samantha Jo Muller scored twice.

In the second game, AU took a 1-0 lead after one inning before the visiting Tigers knotted it up with a run in the top of the second. AU took a 3-1 lead on a two-run single by junior second baseman Dana Torchia in the third and held RIT in check before until the Tigers plated their final run on a leadoff homerun in the seventh.

Freshman Kerri Keeler got the complete-game pitching win for the Saxons, allowing two earned runs on six hits while striking out three.

Thompson was 2-for-3 with a double and two runs for the Saxons. Junior Mackenzie Miller scored a run and Wickwire had an RBI.

Alfred is in action next on Friday, April 3, when the Saxons take on visiting Medaille in a 3 p.m. non-conference doubleheader.



Photo Credit: Zach Frank



Carlos Valdez poses in a cellular spotlight



Part 1 of 3 in a series

The Fiat Lux is running a bi-weekly photo feature. Photos must be submitted to Layout Editor Caroline Jette at [cqj1@alfred.edu](mailto:cqj1@alfred.edu), and must be in jpeg format. Photos may be black and white, full color or filtered any way the photographer sees fit. One submis-

sion will be selected for each edition. Multiple submissions are acceptable, there is no file limit. Photos may not include full or partial nudity. Any photo including a person's face and/or body must be submitted with the subject's name, unless the subject explicitly

requests anonymity, in which case the subject must email the Fiat at [cqj1@alfred.edu](mailto:cqj1@alfred.edu) expressing this desire. Photos must be the photographer's original work and may only be submitted by the photographer.