

Alfred University students get history lesson with visit to Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

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Chris Foster (right) and a group of his students at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

ALFRED, NY Alfred University students in Chris Foster's History of Rock Music course know about legends of rock from what they've read in books or listened to in class. On a recent trip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, they had the opportunity to learn even more about these famed musicians.

Foster, associate professor of music, took five students to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Nov. 4. The students have been learning about the origins and influences of rock and roll music -- blues, gospel, R&B, country, bluegrass and folk music -- as well as biographies of famous rock musicians. The visit to the Hall of Fame helped them connect with what they learned in the classroom.

"The students all had a really good time and enjoyed being up close to the many artifacts of rock legends," Foster commented. "It's one thing to read about the artists and listen to their music, but another to be in the presence of some of the instruments, costumes and equipment that are a part of rock history. It was definitely a worthwhile trip."

Students who went on the trip (pictured left-to-right in the photo) were first-year Steve Corona of Ridgewood, NY; senior Samantha Diaz of Brewster, NY; senior Kaylin Brant of Hornell, NY; senior Brendan Murray of Bath, NY; and first-year Devon Ross of Rochester, NY.

Foster said the more popular displays among the students included Muddy Waters' guitars; artists' handwritten lyrics; Jimi Hendrix's enormous sound board; equipment from Sun Studio; Michael Jackson's trademark glove; the Power of Rock Experience; and the Rolling Stone Fifty Years exhibit.

One of the students, Brant, had been to the Hall of Fame previously, during a band trip several years ago. "However, she mentioned it was a much better experience this time since she knew most of the artists because of our class," Foster said.