

## **AU Performing Arts students and faculty attending regional festival**

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Fifteen Alfred University students, accompanied by Theater Professors Becky Prophet and Steve Crosby, are attending the Region II Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, with several students entered in competitions that could lead to regional and national recognition. Elizabeth Van Deusen, a senior fine arts major from Brockport, NY, will be presenting her make-up design for *Fiddler on the Roof* and her make-up and costume designs for *Cloud 9*. Last year, Van Deusen won the Barbizon Award for her make-up designs for *Inspector General*; as one of eight regional winners, she advanced to national competition in Washington, DC, last spring. Jennifer McClure of Groveville, NJ, who just received her BFA from the School of Art & Design, will present her *Cloud 9* props and the process by which she created them, and Sara Schnick, a junior history major from Manchester, NH, will present her stage manager's book, also from *Cloud 9*. The cast of *Cloud 9*, directed by Prophet, was invited to present a scene from the production. Among the students who will recreate their roles from the November 2004 production are Megan Birchfield, a freshman history major from Beaverton, OR; John Kalish, a junior in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences who is from Newburgh, NY; Matt Mingle, a freshman in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences from Torbotville, PA; and Sara Schnick. Several AU students will be auditioning for the Irene Ryan acting scholarship. With their scene partners, they will each present a three-minute scene for the regional judges. Lacey Holmes of University Heights, OH, a senior majoring in theater and communications studies; Simon Reid, a senior from Leyden, MA; and Theresa Honti, a junior psychology major from Wellsville, NY, all earned the honor for their work in *Beyond Therapy*, directed by Crosby. Kalish is among the scene partners who will perform with them. Birchfield and Logan Kjep, a freshman fine arts major in the School of Art & Design, who is from Sherman, CT, will audition based on their work in *Cloud 9*. Their scene partners include Carlos Bido, a sophomore theater major from the Bronx, and Schnick. Students from all over the region, which includes colleges and universities throughout New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and portions of West Virginia and Ohio, participate in a series of seminars and workshops during the four-day festival, which started Tuesday and continues through Saturday. They also are cast in and rehearse scenes that are performed at the end of festival. In addition, they will see up to 10 productions. Prophet created a directing program that is being offered for the first time at the regional festival.