

Homecoming is Oct. 8

9/26/05

Friends, fun, food, fall foliage and football. That's the formula for Alfred University's annual Homecoming, on Saturday, Oct. 8. Activities begin with a tailgate party on the lawn of Davis Gym. Alumni, parents, students, friends and members of the community are welcome to attend the picnic, sponsored by the Alfred University Alumni Council. Tickets are \$8 each for adults and \$5 each for AU students and children under 10. Kick-off for AU's game against Hartwick College is at 1 p.m., with the Homecoming king and queen to be crowned during half-time. The Friends of Saxon Athletics and the AU Alumni Council will co-host a reception during half-time, open to all who attend the game. Also during half-time, four alumni who will be inducted into AU's Hall of Fame will be introduced. They include: John Walsh, a 1984 alumnus of AU who was a three-year member of the track and field teams at AU (1982-84) and served as captain his senior season. During his career, he set several school records that still stand today. He owns individual records for the indoor high jump (2.07 meters, set in 1984) and the outdoor high jump (2.09 meters, set in 1984). He was also part of the indoor and outdoor 1,600-meter relay teams that established school records. He was Independent Collegiate Athletic Conference (ICAC) champ in the indoor and outdoor high jump in 1982 and was the ICAC indoor champ in both the high jump and 400-meter run in 1983, when he led AU to the team indoor ICAC title. Walsh graduated with a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering. He is a president and CEO of Ceramic Protection Corp. in Newark, DE, a manufacturer of ceramic products used in industrial and military applications. He lives in Newark, DE, with his wife, Rina, and their two children, daughter Amanda (12) and son Daniel (11). William Ruffle, a 1988 graduate who was a standout member of the men's soccer team from 1984-87, when he was a four-year starter who helped lead the Saxons to ECAC titles in 1984 and 1987. A regional All-American and ICAC First Team All-Star as a senior in 1987, Ruffle ranks sixth all-time at AU in career points (66), second in career goals (27) and ninth in career assists (12). In 1988, he served as an assistant coach on the AU women's team, helping to guide the Lady Saxons to an NCAA tournament appearance. Ruffle graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He earned his master's degree in education from Alfred in 1989. He is currently an instructor of mathematics at Northern Virginia Community College in Manassas, VA. He and his wife, Sheri, live in Reston, VA, with their daughter, Anna, 7, and son, Paul, 4. John Hoosock, who graduated in 1992, and who is one of the top defensive players ever to play football at AU. A three-year starting defensive lineman who played from 1987-90, he holds the school record for tackles in a season (154, set in 1990) and ranks third all-time in career tackles (350). Hoosock was a First Team Pizza Hut All-American in 1989, when he helped lead the Saxons to victory in the ECAC North Championship game, and a Second Team Champion All-American in 1990. Hoosock earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He lives in Skaneateles, NY, and is a materials logistics professional at IBM in Endicott, NY. Julie Francis, class of 1993, who is perhaps the top goalkeeper ever to play women's soccer at AU. A four-year starter from 1989-92, she holds school career records for saves (542) and shutouts (22). She also holds the school records for lowest goals-against average in a season (.98, set in 1990). Francis was a First Team New York State Collegiate Women's Athletic Association All-Star in 1992 and a First Team Empire Athletic Association All-Star in 1991 and 1992. As a freshman in 1989, she was named team Rookie of the Year after helping lead AU to the ECAC championship. Francis graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She lives in Glenview, IL, and is vice president and general manager for Coca-Cola Enterprises, Lakeshore (IL) Division. They will be inducted during banquet ceremonies Saturday, Oct. 8, in the Knight Club, Powell Campus Center. Tickets are \$30 per person for the reception and dinner; \$10 per person for the reception only and \$25 per person for the dinner only. Tickets may be purchased on-line at www.alfred.edu/alumni or by calling the Athletics office, 607.871.2193.