Student Senate sanctioned

By Thomas Fleming
Editor in Chief

After investigating the delayed 2010 Student Senate elections, Director of Student Activities Dan Napolitano sanctioned Student Senate on March 20 to review and improve bylaws and election policies by October.

“I sanctioned that the Alfred University Student Senate, under the leadership of their current Vice President, conduct a review of their bylaws and policies in order to improve the competency of the process for future elections,” Napolitano said in the March 20 report received via e-mail by the Fiat Lux. “Specifically, the Senate will be required to create an elections appeal process, develop a comprehensive timeline and further review campaign funding and posting policies. This sanction is to be completed by October 1, 2010.”

The investigation and sanctions were the result of a complaint sent anonymously by former Student Senate president candidate Nate Martell.

“With such a hodge-podge of errors...change seems necessary to ensure the strength and integrity of the Student Senate,” Martell said of his reasons for filing the complaint.

Elections were delayed by a week this year due to a “miscommunication” between the Elections Committee, a standing Student Senate committee with no official oversight, and the Student Senate Executive Board. Other delays, such as technical issues with Blackboard, also plagued the 2010 elections.

Martell’s complaint charged that several parts of the Student Senate constitution “were grossly and negligently violated in the contested election, overshadowing the validity of the supposed winner of the election.” He also charged that secret ballot voting rights were violated since some students were required to request access because of technical issues within BannerWeb, which could be viewed as a form of harassment since e-mails had to be sent in order to set up a ballot.

“I am calling for the resignation of the [president and a new election in accordance with the student constitution,” Martell stated in the complaint.

Findings in Napolitano’s report concluded that the Student Senate and Elections Committee failed to follow procedures, including “proper protocol for electing, replacing, and training election committee members,” insufficient planning leading to delayed voting and access denied to some students [on the BannerWeb] voting system.

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Winter has its final siege at Cannon and Barresi Halls

By Thomas Fleming
Editor in Chief

A large snow fort was erected Feb. 26 and 27 between Barresi and Cannon Halls. More photos can be found at thefiatlux.com.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY BRANDON WENNER

PHOTO BY DAVID LEMMO

DeVlin-Gauthier, Cramer win Innovation Award

By Jessica Mereño
Staff Writer

At the annual Honors Convocation, winners of the Isenberg Student Innovation Award are formally presented, as well as recognized at the Board of Trustees meeting in May. This year, there were a record high of twelve nominations, with half of them involving sustainability or green efforts. From twelve, winners Ian Cramer and Ana Devlin-Gauthier were selected.

“I am pleased that so many students are creating innovations that will move AU forward,” stated Vice President for Student Affairs Kathy Woughter.

Projects considered for the awards seek to improve the quality of life for the Alfred community, faculty or students.

The nominees were required to complete questionnaires and essays about their projects. These were later reviewed by a committee consisting of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Chairperson of the Student Affairs Board of Trustees committee, the Student Senate President or Designee and the Director of Student Activities.

“I was surprised when I won the award but I always knew that it had a chance to win,” stated Senior Ian Cramer. His idea for the Saxon Bike Hub Bicycle Lending Program won him the award. He had the plan since his first year but only brought it to the table in January of his junior year.

“In April, I presented the idea to student senate and they approved my special allocation request for $10,000,” Cramer said.

The program began last fall and was an immediate success.

Continued on page 7...

Student Senate president attempts change

By Eric Hudack
Staff Writer

Ana DeVlin-Gauthier was announced the winner of the Student Senate Presidential election on March 3 during the Senate meeting.

DeVlin-Gauthier was elected with 53 percent of the vote, while Peter Nyitrai received 26 percent and Nathan Martell received 19 percent.

Upon announcement of her victory, President Develin-Gauthier proceeded to run the rest of the meeting. The transition, which would be considered by some as being far from ceremonious, consisted mainly of Devlin-Gauthier juggling for former President Amos Mainville’s keys as he jokingly held them above her head.

At the March 3 Student Senate meeting, a new executive board was constructed. Senators actively nominated their peers to run for newly vacant positions. Even former President Mainville was nominated.

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Wit and Wisdom winner Liz Wager’s poems featured

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Photos from Glam Slam

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Keep up with Student Senate on thefiatlux.com liveblog.
We say goodbye and you say hello...

Late March has arrived, and though we’ve had an unusually warm week, we’ll inevitably receive more snow before the year is out. Plans are being laid for Hot Dog Day, comedians and concerts, parties, cook-outs and graduation.

Though for some graduation is just another over-the-top ceremony that is months away, others of us are feeling the pressure of buying regalia, contributing to the senior initiative, guessing who will be the Outstanding Seniors and preparing to join the so-called “real world.”

Among this latter group is a large portion of the executive staff of the Fiat Lux. While some members will be here to write, edit, lay out and produce next year, some of us will not. We have completed our last issue in our positions with bittersweet feelings.

Certainly the newspaper requires a lot of work, and it will be nice for us to pass this duty on to younger members so that we can enjoy our last year or more as drawing to a close, and that we only have to train new members before we can have our weekends back.

However, we actively chose to apply for and take these positions and all the work that goes with them. We have learned from what we have done with this paper, and we can all say we owe some of our best friendships and skill sets to the Fiat Lux, in addition to some of our longest weekends.

It is with this bittersweet feeling that we know we pass the proverbial torch to the incoming executive staff. We could offer the cliche words of wisdom in exchange for the obligatory expressions of gratitude we’ve been given and that we’ve taken. We are certain that the Fiat Lux will be in good hands, and that the new staff will learn to love what we have done with this paper, and we can all say we owe some of our best friendships and skill sets to the Fiat Lux, in addition to some of our longest weekends.

With all change comes both discomfort and the chance to rise to new opportunities.

Those of us that are graduating face more uncertainty than we’ve known for the last four years, but we have no choice but to face it and move on with our lives. Those who will step up to the task of running the Fiat Lux face less uncertainty, but the new opportunity will also be a chance to learn and develop.

Okay, we tried not to be cliche, but we just can’t help ourselves. We have the utmost respect for this newspaper, and we trust that the new staff will handle the work admirably. Good luck, and goodbye (or is that hello?)

To lead or follow: a gray area

From the moment we step on campus, we are enveloped by requests for our involvement in clubs, organizations, sports teams and other groups. This is especially true of small campus es like ours. Many of us answer the call and become involved in our respective areas of interest. Some of us choose to be leaders of those groups while others as- sume a lesser role as followers. Both roles are essential for survival of the group and like a food chain or any hierarchi- cal structure, a balance must be achieved. If this balance becomes askew and the population of a group becomes engorged with leaders, can this compromise the group? Is the reverse, can a group be so starved for followers that it crumbles?

First we must understand what it is to be a leader. A good leader should be a good listener. A good leader should be someone who is both organized and focused on the goals of the group. The leader should be available for his or her teammates, include others with the tasks of the group and be decisive and confident. (http://www.alumni.montclair.edu/ team_building/what_leader).

Do these sound like charac- teristics of a leader you follow or know? If so, good for you and good for your group to be under such strong guidance. If not, you should be a bit wary of that lead- er. Be careful of their actions. It’s your right as a member of that group to be critical at times.

A follower defined by Merri- am-Webster is one in the service of another, one that follows the opinions or teachings of another or one that imitates another. But a follower is in no way the op- posite of a leader. This definition does not restrict followers to si- lence or lack of free expression.

Dr. David Day is a psycholo- gist from Penn State who has been studying leadership for the past 20 years. Through his stud- ies and research he asserts that in terms of a leader or follower, “you’re not one or the other. You can fulfill both roles even in the same situation.” He continues by saying, “Leadership is a dynamic process…We have preconceived notions that leaderships are always out in front directing the band, but the process…involves every- body on the team.”

The greatest leaders were once followers and this process, as Day said, is dynamic. Your role can change so that one moment you’re the leader and the next moment you have to follow the direction of another and listen to others’ opinions. If this happens, leaders and followers have to take into account all options and should make the best decision for the group.

Day mentions that leaders tend to get along with just about anybody and are termed “Social Chameleons.” Even if there are members who you don’t like or members who don’t like you, the sign of a good leader is the ability to get things done despite aver- sions towards other members.

Can followers lead? Yes. Should leaders follow? Yes. Can a group have too many leaders? Accord- ing to Day, the leader shouldn’t strictly lead, they should assume both roles, so the answer to that question is no. All members of the group have to work together, take on multiple roles and work towards the ultimate goal of the group as a collective.

What are some ways you can improve your leadership? Day states that you must be self- aware and be open to honest feedback.

“If there are large discrepan- cies between how you see your- self and how others see you, that’s a big red flag,” he said. A common flaw in potential leaders is the inability to accept this feedback. They dwell on the negative feedback and become defensive rather than self-reflec- tive. Professionalism, respon- sibility and accountability are huge factors that play into how a leader is perceived and how that person can become a better leader.

Letter to the Editor: A congratulatory note

Dear Ana,

I would like to take a moment and publicly congratulate you on your victory this spring in the 2010 Student President Elec- tion. Albeit the fact that all three of us (Peter you, and myself) each year have the opportunity to be the next President, the stu- dent body has spoken and cho- sen their candidate. I am happy for you in this victory both as a friend and fellow student in your opportunity to be our lead- er over the course of the next school year. I know that you will work tirelessly for the welfare of the entire student body. There are a myriad of issues and con- cerns that affect every student on a daily basis. I am glad that you will be the face of leader- ship in a position to emphatically listen to each concern and with your enormous self-less service benefit campus life here at Alfred University. I sincerely hope for the best for you and am glad that there is such a wonderful person leading our campus. Again, con- gratulations on your victory.

Very Respectfully,
Nathan Marrell

The Fiat welcomes your opinion. Anyone may write a letter to the editor. Submissions must include name, address, phone number and class year (for students). Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words; guest columns should be limited to 700 words. The Fiat Lux reserves the right to edit all letters for space, clarity, brevity and fair play. E-mail your thoughts to fiatlux@alfred.edu.
Faculty Soapbox: Stories on a dark night

By David DeCoff
Associate Professor of Astronomy

What’s the most spectacular vista in the natural world? Wouldn’t it be great to look out your window and see the cliffs of the Grand Canyon, or surf pounding into the cliffs at Bur Sur or the waterfalls of Oahu? Wonderful, all of them, but here in Alfred we have the greatest vista of all: the night-time sky.

Every place on earth used to be able to see this spectacular sight. Vincent Van Gogh could include stars in the sky behind his “Night Café,” a scene from the center of the city of Arles. In the 20th century we over-lit our cities and suburbs, spilling our artificial light. Pollution with light, just as ugly as sticking smoke stacks or garbage in the grass. Now we have to get away from cities to see the sublime beauty of the Milky Way. The Milky Way, our own galaxy, is located far away from cities with their polluted ground, polluted water, polluted air and polluted night skies.

I remember the first time I stood in awe of the night sky. It was when I was six months after Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon, deep in the woods in northern Quebec on a fishing trip with my father. The first night he woke me and told me to come outside. I had never seen so many stars. Besides the handful of bright stars and the endless stars just at the edge of perception, I was looking like a band of smoke, split the sky in two. I could see the outline of the trees on the other side of the lake. I could see the starlight glint off my father’s glasses. I could see the whole thing perfectly reflected on the water, no longer just in love with the moon. The whole universe just opened before me.

My first view of the night sky in Alfred was almost as great. I looked up at the constellations I knew so well, but they were harder to make out. There were too many stars, much more than I used to see. Fortunately, Cassiopeia, Pegasus, Andromeda, then I caught a faint glimpse of a smudge just above Andromeda’s second star. The Andromeda Galaxy—the Milky Ways nearest neighbor, two-million light-year away. The stars there are so dark, I could see Andromeda with my naked eyes! The light I was directly looking at with my eyes had been traveling on its journey from Andromeda to me for two million years. When this light left Andromeda, two-million years ago, Homo Habilis was the smartest creature walking the earth. The most advanced technology they had was a broken rock. The patterns of stars in the sky don’t mean anything. They’re random. They’re random, but they are spellbinding, and people all over the world see the same star-strend sky.

The way I work, the way we play has changed the internet has changed the way we work, the way we play. Ten years ago, the notion of(constellations) I named in the last paragraph to the characters they were, but they were harder to make out. There were too many stars, much more than I used to see. Fortunately, Cassiopeia, Pegasus, Andromeda. Then I caught a faint glimpse of a smudge just above Andromeda’s second star. The Andromeda Galaxy—the Milky Ways nearest neighbor, two-million light-year away. The stars there are so dark, I could see Andromeda with my naked eyes! The light I was directly looking at with my eyes had been traveling on its journey from Andromeda to me for two million years. When this light left Andromeda, two-million years ago, Homo Habilis was the smartest creature walking the earth. The most advanced technology they had was a broken rock. The patterns of stars in the sky don’t mean anything. They’re random, but they are spellbinding, and people all over the world see the same star-strend sky.

The way I work, the way we play has changed the internet has changed the way we work, the way we play. Ten years ago, the notion of

The Alfred Computer Guy: The obsolescence of television

Mike Stone
Contributing Writer

At this point, it’s no secret that the internet has changed the way we work, the way we play. I started out fairly basic, but an additional TV outlet, an extra DVR and an HD channel package later, my bill was crossing the $200.00 per month line. I needed to re-evaluate my entertainment options.

With my wife acting as a muse, it then dawned on me, “With Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, and a host of other content available for little to no cost, do I really need a TV provider at all?” It turns out, with some accepted headaches, the answer was “no.”

By taking the TV out of my provider’s bill altogether, I trimmed the cost down to a small fraction of what I was paying before. I then set about getting my home set up for internet-only content.

In the living room (with the bigger widescreen HDTV), I connected my desktop computer’s video card to the television using an S-Video cable and assigned a quick-access profile using ATI’s control panel that allows easy switching between the monitor and the TV. A wire less mouse and a shortcut to the On-Screen Keyboard application built into Windows XP later, and I had a working media center system. In the bedroom with the smaller television, I had to figure out something else. I wasn’t willing to purchase another computer to use as a secondary media center – after all, my goal was cost savings. In the end, I found my answer with a product called Roku.

Roku is a digital video player for your television that connects to the internet via wired or wireless connection and, using a very basic GUI, allows you to browse and play movies from your Netflix Instant Watch queue. At a one-time cost of $100 for the hardware, this was a financial hit I was willing to take and I’ve been pleased as punch with the quality, even over wireless.

Roku has also just released a developer SDK kit. This means more channels are being added all the time, including Pandora Radio, Facebook Photo browser, Flickr Photo browser and a host of 3rd-party custom content.

There are, of course, downsides to this setup. I don’t watch shows at the same time or day that many of my friends and coworkers do. I have to get my “Lost” fix a day after everyone else, and it can be difficult getting through an entire Wednesday workday without overhearing spoilers.

Additionally, my content choices are more limited than those with a thousand channels. If it isn’t on Netflix, Hulu or SouthParkStudios.com, then I’m pretty stuck.

Still, Netflix is adding more and more television shows all the time including some great BBC features like “Doctor Who,” “M.I.5” and “Top Gear.” Ultimately, it doesn’t feel so much like I’m missing out on things as I just have more control over my own TV choices.

I find myself no longer getting stuck watching a show or incurring I have no interest in just because it’s where I stopped flipping through the channels. So is it worth it? If you’re willing to maintain your own network, invest in the necessary technology and approach the situation with realistic expectations, then the extra heat in your wallet will surely answer that question for you.

Do you have any questions you would like to ask? Send me an e-mail at: stone@alfred.edu with the subject “Alfred Computer Guy”. Mac, PC, Linux, OS/2 Warp, NeXT… hit me with your best shot!
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Fix Your Bike Day on March 20

Golden Dragon Acrobats on March 16

(Above) The Bike Hub hosted Fix Your Bike Day on March 20 outside Davis Gym. Tune-ups were free for students, staff and faculty.

(Above) The Golden Dragon Chinese Acrobats performed to a packed Holmes Auditorium audience March 16.

Witty and Wise Poetry

By Leah Houk

Liz Wager, the winner of the first annual Phi Beta Kappa Wit and Wisdom Award, presented her essay "Why Do Personas Matter?" at the March 4 Bergren Forum. Wager’s essay examined "the use of different voices and different characters within poetry," as she described it. In addition to the essay, Wager read some of her poems, two of which are printdescribed below.

A cigarette, on being consumed

My dry husk, too tight, creases and threatens to rip.
The column of heat shoots through me and I tremble, feeling lips peel away, sticky.

We were clones, stiff-necked in boxes with pressed white sleeves, clean-shaven. We perched like soldiers on the shelf,
and I liked to pretend that I was the collective, the only true one, multiplied to the horizon:
I was there in the beginning, and would be until the end.
I thought that all the others were me,
and loved to die a billion times,
the only true one, multiplied to the horizon:
I liked to pretend that I was the collective.
We were clones, stiff-necked in boxes with pressed white sleeves,
and I loved to die a billion times,
the only true one, multiplied to the horizon:
I liked to pretend that I was the collective.

But as I burn and crumble into gray snow,
I confess that this feels
a lot like permanence.

With what little breath I have, in these final minutes,
I sigh, realizing that I am just a cheap copy
of the ideal. And, with a blink,
I’ll be gone.

My smoke will linger in the purple evening,
but it will soon dissolve into the mosquito night,
the only fading trace of my simple existence.
I could be churned down onto the smooth glass,
scraped into the sidewalk,
or thrown from the grinding car,
left to bounce along the new-wet street;
and with each bounce,
my orange eye will open less and less
until there is too little light for me to see.

Alfred Literary Festival March 25-27

Emerging poet Jim Murphy will present a reading of his works at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 25 in the Knight Club. Fiction writer and Alfred English professor Rahul Mehta will give a reading following Murphy at 7:30 p.m., also in the Knight Club.

Friday, March 26 is packed with activities. All of the authors will participate in a book signing from 3-4 p.m. in Powell’s Alumni Lounge. Later that day, fiction writer Megan Staffel will give the Keynote Reading of the festival in the Gothic Chapel at 6 p.m. An open mic night will conclude Friday’s events from 8:30-10 p.m. in the Gothic Chapel.

The festival will conclude on Saturday, March 27 with a Literary Roundtable Discussion from 2-4 p.m. in Powell’s Alumni Lounge.

The literary festival continues to bring a vast array of literature and poetry to the Alfred community. All events are open to AU students, faculty and the general public.

Electrical storm

On August nights, when pressing heat and swarms of heavy air hang thick above your bed, and traffic lights outside your room birth forms that shift on darkened walls in ugly red and purple flames, you find yourself awake.
You shuck too clinging boxers, crossly shed
their confining sheets, and pray the fan won’t break.

These nights all pass the same, until one night
you face the window, conscious of the ache
of marbled evening, burning deep into
the web of fiery rain in which you’re caught.
And through
the ancient people to their knees.

It’s you
and nature, nothing more, the strange design
of marbled evening, burning deep into
your eyes—the muted fireworksthat brought
the ancient people to their knees.

And through
the web of fiery rain in which you’re caught
you realize that you truly understand
the marvels of the earth; and age has taught
you swift dissection of the cryptic, grand,
and interwoven meanings of the sky.
You feel your wonder dimming with each brand
of white that shudders through the dark. You sigh
and shut your eyes, ashamed of how naive
you used to be...

and yet, you can’t deny
how powerful it was when you perceived
(you when you were young, and quite alone)
the magic of the storms. And you believe
that now, since all that can be known is known,
your life meant nothing more than it did then
(when god-like sparks were very much your own)
and it will never mean as much again.

Three of the best household cleaners are cheap, nontoxic to humans, pets and the environment (unlike most chemical cleaners), and can be found in most kitchens: vinegar, lemon juice and baking soda.

Vinegar: mix equal parts vinegar and water in a spray bottle and use to clean nearly any surface in your home. Although vinegar smears strongly when wet, the smell evaporates completely when the vinegar dries, and vinegar acts as a natural deodorizer and thorough disinfectant. It can even absorb strong smells such as cigarette smoke from clothing and furniture.

Lemon juice: sprinkle baking soda on a lemon and use it to scrub nearly any surface. Lemon will clean, shine, deodorize and leave a pleasant smell. Lemon juice also works well as a bleaching agent. Squeeze lemon juice on stained white clothing and let dry in the sun before washing. The stain will be gone.

Baking soda: one of the best odor-absorbing products available, baking soda can take scents out of the fridge, bathroom, garbage pails and anywhere else you have unwanted odors. It also works well as a stain remover in toilet bowls and kitchen surfaces.
Alfred hosts Franz Nicolay

By Will Henry
Staff Writer

If you were one of the lucky few who attended Franz Nicolay’s solo act at the Knight Club, you understand the caliber of entertainment that took place. About an hour before Franz took the stage, I was able to chat with him about a variety of musical topics, ranging from his experience to the way in which he adopts a strong stage persona, and his music specifically to, more obviously of the two, is the energy that a grandiose personality brings to his presence on stage.

Additionally, the distance a person creates between the real Franz Nicolay and the entertainer Franz Nicolay allows any bad feedback he may receive not to affect him as much personally. Nicolay draws on many areas of interest to create both his music and his persona. There is a vaudeville air to his presentation of music, which stems from his on-stage charisma and ability to turn unexpected mishaps into handcrafted pieces entertainment made specifically for the audience. A perfect example of this occurred during his show at Alfred. Nicolay’s accordion broke mid-song, forcing him to continue the concert with only his banjo. Many of the songs he played after that time had never been played on banjo before. It is ad libbing like this that makes live music better than any studio album.

A gypsy quality is also present in Nicolay as a musician, and this seems incredibly natural and fluent for him. Themes of travel and sadness appeared throughout his set list and in every instance the images used seemed beautifully honest. Possibly the most interesting part of my conversation with Nicolay was on the topic of the death of the music industry. He saw musicians from the early 20th century and before breaking into the two categories. These were “patrons” who were commissioned by the wealthy, and “troubadours” who traveled and told stories for food, money and lodging. Only more recently has a third type, the “recording artist,” appeared in music. Nicolay expressed the idea that the recording artist lifestyle, which is built around a material object, may only be an anomaly of the past century and that the other two forms of musicianship may become more prevalent in the future. I found this view of the changes occurring within music industry incredibly optimistic and appealing. Live music has seen a spike in popularity over the past decade in our culture, with shows like American Idol, and its British counterpart Pop Idol, catching huge numbers of viewers worldwide.

Commissioned music is becoming more prevalent in film and TV as well. Directors are often working with the same composer for many films, as is the case with the contemporary director Darren Aronofsky (Requiem for a Dream, The Fountain, The Wrestler) and his composer Clint Mansell. Franz Nicolay, however, views himself relating with the category of troubadour, a life of storytelling and travel.

Alfred hosted an incredibly well versed and well rounded performer. Franz Nicolay seems to experience the lifestyle of musicians of the past and he knows the history he is married to because of it. Keep an eye on the performer and if you missed out on the show or want to hear more, you can at: http://franznicolay.com/

Glam Slam: ‘Lady Gaga’s Candy Wonderland’ March 19

Drag queens and kings entertained the crowd during Spectrum’s biannual Glam Slam dance party March 19 in the Knight Club. This semester’s theme was “Lady Gaga in Candy Wonderland.” Students came in costumes inspired by Lady Gaga, Candyland and Alice in Wonderland.

‘Print Making Saturdays’

By Leah Houk
A&E Editor

Junior Bryan Daly (at right with his print “Den Buddha”) and sophomore Dave Douglas had an opening March 20 in the Random Room Gallery at 26 South Main St. The show focused on different prints they had made during the semester.

‘Print Making Saturdays’ was a show devoted to the work Dave and I have done while working together in the print shop every Saturday this semester,” Daly said. “We started the tradition this year when we discovered that by working together we not only had each other to help us make choices about our work, but we were also much more relaxed. I think our work reflects that, and our opening, which attracted dozens of people and eventually became a raucous dance party, certainly did.”

More photos from the opening can be seen online at www.thefiatlux.com/
Women's History Month
By Nichellia Noel
Staff Writer

Women's History Month celebrates and recognizes brilliant women for their outstanding historical contributions, and Alfred University is no exception to the month of celebration.

WHM was begun as Women's History Week in 1978 by the Commission on the Status of Women, an agency promoting women's rights. Its namesake organization, the National Women's History Project, was established in 2002.

Women's History Month was celebrated at Alfred University through various events throughout March.

I went to P(freqag National Forest west of northern California with the Outdoor Club for spring break. Every year the outdoor club plans a trip to somewhere worthwhile, said Alfred in order to experience the outdoors in all its beauty. This is a trip only every other year to students with all levels of experience. We left Alfred at midnight on Friday, some of us more mentally prepared for 4 to 6 hours than others. Several stops and four tanks of gas later, we pulled into a heavily wooded park with no cell phone service, no internet and nothing but fresh air.

This was a shock to some, including me. Life would now be without any college essentials. Once we pitched our tents and picked our tent buddies, we came to the sudden realization that we would be living, eating and sleeping with the same people for a week. I heard some mumblings of, "Oh, we're sleeping on the ground?" and "That's what we're eating?"

Many of us were absolute strangers to one another and it felt like freshman orientation all over again.

We didn't drive 14 hours to get to the ground and make tent on the campfire, though. Activities that were planned for the week included hours of white water rafting, horseback riding, hiking, a half night spent zip-lining through the trees of the Great Smoky Mountains and for those of us who wanted the true camping experience, a three-day, 30-mile backpacking trip.

As can be imagined, the water in any river in early March is less than comfortable. Once we donned wet suits, splash jackets, helmets and life vests, we were ready to battle the category three and four rapids in teams of four to six people as we waded into the water and mounted our self-bailing rafts. The 42-degree water sent chills down our spines and reminded us that this was serious. The rapids came early and often, splashing us with spray. Fortunately no one had to be rescued from the water (unlike last spring) and a good head for cold, despite some cold feet.

Unlike the rafting, I had never experienced zip-lining before, so I was a little nervous. An hour and a half drive only prolonged the butterflies in my stomach and kept us waiting and wondering what it would be like.

Once all 15 people were strapped in, we started giggling like five year olds. The feeling of flying in the trees is so unnatural, but so much fun. It was a great experience, one I highly recommend. Only 3 members of the group departed midweek on a three day hiking trip through the forests of Pisgah, myself included.

With a detailed map, a 40lb pack and some useful advice from a well informed forest ranger, we set out. Day one consisted of roughly 10 miles of snow, slush, fallen timber, Black Mountain, switchbacks and fording a river. Dinner always tastes better if you’ve worked for it and that night, we worked for it.

Hot dogs cooked over a campfire with extra spicy mustard--yum! Gourmet fare out on the trail.

Day two started out the same as day one, but soon took a turn for torment, despair and misery. We inched the trail in the forecast, and soon the clouds opened up and drenched us. Starting at 10 a.m., it rained all day until we finally made contact with a shelter, seven hours later. As you can imagine, everything was wet—not only the clothes on our backs, but the clothes and supplies in my backpack as well.

My fellow hikers had packed their clothes and sleeping bags in trash bags. What a novel idea! Getting warm that night was a task in itself when everything I was wearing was damp.

Day three began at 6:30 a.m. and we decided that because of how the previous day had ended, we would cut our hike short and make for a ranger station three miles east from our shelter instead of huff it back to camp nine miles south. Our map was our best friend and we found the station without a problem. With dirty, wet, smiling faces, we bummed a ride back to base camp and recuperated enough to sit through 14-hours of travel back home to Alfred.

If you would like to participate in the outdoor club, you can e-mail forest@alfred.edu. If you would like information, or come to our weekly meetings on Tuesday’s at 9:00 p.m. in the Kenyon-Allen room in Powell.

Spring break in North Carolina
By Ian Cramer
Editor

Like many other countries, the current conflict in Lebanon is most often associated with Israel and Palestine. While this is not untrue, there is much more behind the situation than it is often presented.

Like many territories controlled by the Ottoman Empire (which collapsed during World War I), Lebanon and Syria were bequeathed to a European power (in this case, France). While the two countries are now techni- cally separate, they were often perceived as one and the same, the Lebanese Republic, created in 1926, was a sub-territory of Syria that was largely Maronite Chris- tian. While the Lebanese Chris- tian was later considered a sepa- rate entity, it was still associated with the French Mandate of Syria until independence was obtained in 1943. Despite initial French resis- tance (part of which included placing the newly elected Leba- nese government in jail), inter- national pressure paved the way for reluctant French acceptance. The first free Lebanese government was an attempt to balance the various ethnic and religious groups living in the state. Maronite Christians still retained a majority of the power.

In 1948, following Israel’s dec- laration of statehood, Lebanon originally planned to join Syria. Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia in attacking the new Jewish state. However, Lebanon backed out of this at the last min- ute. After the Arab-Israeli War (also known as the Israeli War for Independence), thousands of Pal- estinian refugees fled to Lebanon in search of asylum.

The ensuing tensions between Israel and its neighbors spread through Lebanon, as seen in the 1958 crisis. Egypt, whose Suez campaign, which was met with strong resistance, and no stable government. Some experts believe it was a manifestation of the country’s history. The Taif Agreement, which ended the civil war, was signed in 1989.

The war drew to an end with the Taif Agreement, which ended the civil war, was signed in 1989. It is enough to provide the reader with the basics. It is my hope that when you are finished reading, you can readily answer the ques- tion, “What is the blank space going on in (blank)?”

Like many Middle Eastern countries, Lebanon’s ability for a peaceful future is almost entirely dependent on peace between Israelis, Palestinians and other Arab neighbors, particularly Syria, to largely blame the Leba- nese population for Hezbollah’s actions, which only puts more power of them away from accepting Is- rael. Furthermore, Lebanon must also address its future indepen- dence from Syria, something nei- ther country seems particularly fond of.

The purpose of this column is to inform and analyze global events. While one article is not enough to fully explain a conflict, it is enough to provide the reader with the basics. It is my hope that when you are finished reading, you can readily answer the ques- tion, “What is the blank space going on in (blank)?”

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Kristin Rubisch
Managing Editor

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To celebrate this Women’s History Month, the Women’s Studies Department and the Women’s Leadership Center will be sponsoring events for this month including the Riley Lecture on March 22, titled “Girls Going Wild: Facts and Myths about Girls and Violence.” Dr. Chesney-Lind, a professor from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, will present at 7 p.m. in the Rocky D. and Elizabeth Deaver Room in the Roe Student Center.

Women’s History Month
By Nichellia Noel
Staff Writer

Women’s History Month celebrates and recognizes brilliant women for their outstanding historical contributions, and Alfred University is no exception to the month of celebration.

WHM was begun as Women’s History Week in 1978 by the Commission on the Status of Women, an agency promoting women’s rights. Its namesake organization, the National Women’s History Project, was established in 2002.

Women’s History Month was celebrated at Alfred University through various events throughout March.
Today’s Riley Lecture: ‘Girls Going Wild’

By Laura Royoune
Staff Writer

Juliana Gray, assistant professor of English and recent winner of Syracuse University’s Stone Canoe Award for poetry, joked about the prize: “The stone cano- e sculpture is very heavy. I think it’s made of bronze, so it’s maybe 20, 25 pounds. I intend to work out with it in my office. Look for me with really toned arms this summer.”

Before the summer starts and she begins her exercise regi- men with her new prize, Gray regaled the campus community with a reading of love poems at the Women’s Studies Roundtable on March 5.

Gray read from a variety of poems she had written and others writ- ten by female poets whom she admires. All of the poems dealt with the topic of love, but there were no “Roses are red, violets are blue” Valentine poems. The poems spanned time and many ideas of romance, beginning with Sophocles’ famous Greek poet. In her own poetry, Gray most- ly meditated on the personas of other characters and their rom- antic lives. Her personas drew on Greek mythology (e.g., the goddess of love, Eros) and popular culture in poems such as “Nancy Drew, 45, Posts on Match.com.” Gray did have a couple of poems that were more personal, though she says she learned how to craft poetry.

When asked about her his- tory with poetry, Gray said, “I wrote my first poem probably in the first or second grade, and started taking it seriously as an undergraduate, when I took my first writing workshop.”

Gray was not the only one to take a class from me! I don’t think it’s possible to teach stu- dents how to be great poets, but I do advise aspiring writers to read—read everything, but especially poetry, if you’re trying to write poetry.

Gray is currently working on a manuscript entitled “Roleplay,” and has recently had the two poems published in the anthology “Bright Wings: An Illustrated An- tithesis of Poetry About Birds,” edited by Billy Collins. Gray has a zombie poem in the works, inspired by her honors course, All Zombies, and would like to attack the fact that she is the ALZombie Expert.

Her talk is entitled “Girls Go- ing Wild: Facts and Myths about Girls Violence.” Chelsea-Lind’s work also in- volves gender responsive pro- grams and how girls express re- lational, covert aggression.

“We are honored to have Meda Chelsea-Lind at Alfred Univer- sity,” said Kerry Kautzman, as- sociate professor of Spanish and director of the Women’s Studies Program at Alfred University.

“She is a recognized expert on girls and violence, and frequently performs on her work at national conferences,” Kautzman said.

In addition to her academic research, Dr. Chelsea-Lind works directly with the juvenile justice system in Hawaii and thus can comment with theory in practice in her presentations to our stu- dents, faculty and the commun- ity.

Chelsea-Lind was selected to deliver the 2010 Riley Lecture, Kautzman said, because half of this year’s cohort of students who will graduate with a minor in Women’s Studies are either psychology or sociology majors, and will thus find her work par- ticularly relevant.

During her visit to AU, Chelsea- Lind will be interviewed at a criminal justice institute for ALZ students.

The Elizabeth Hallenberg Beekly and Charles P. Riley Lectureship in Women’s Studies is presented annually on the Alfred University campus. Charles Riley and Eliza- beth Hallenberg Beekly were ALZ graduates, Charles in 1935 and Elizabeth in 1936. Their daugh- ters, Pamela Riley Osborn ’62, Patricia A. Riley ’65, and Melissa Riley generously sponsored the lecture series in memory of their parents.

Juliana Gray’s poetry that she dedicated herself to the art.

As for advice for undergradu- ate poets out there, Gray wrote, “I would advise aspiring poets to take a class from me! I don’t think it’s possible to teach stu- dents how to be great poets, but I do advise aspiring writers to read—read everything, but especially poetry, if you’re trying to write poetry.”

Juliana Gray is an avid reader of poetry, and during her visit to ALZ, she suggested that students should be required to meet with a poet at least once a year to have a healthy body image, as well as being a fundraiser for the participating clubs.

Devlin-Gauthier said, “I was surprised and honored to have won. All of the nominees were fantastic and I cannot thank the board of trustees enough for sup- porting my project as a co-recipi- ent of the award.”

The Bergerson Innovation Awards are funded by the Board of Trustees in honor of Rev. Dr. Richard V. Bergersen, Jr., as- sistant professor of physics and director of religious programs at Alfred from 1960 to 1968. Stu- dent winners honor Bergersen’s regard for that end of the ra- gard of issues throughout the Alfred community.

Students can rent bikes dur- ing the spring and fall and store them on the top floor of Davis Gym, where minor repairs can also be made.

Sophomore Devlin-Gauthier won for two projects: the heavy snow fort that she spearheaded, the clothesline project and the Alfred Un- covered Nudity Calendar. The clothesline project was an opportunity for students to share personal stories through- out Powell during the fall se- mester by writing them on T-shirts and hanging them on the clothesline.

The calendar, inspired by similar endeavors by other uni- versities, allowed twelve organ- nizations on campus to be photo- graphed almost nude in ways that related to their club. Devlin-Gauthier says it helped educate the students on having a healthy body image, as well as being a fundraiser for the participating clubs.

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Snow fort… continued from front page

were six to eight-feet tall. The fort lasted until at least April break, when the sun and warmer weather claimed the fort and turned it back into water.

I don’t think this was entirely the second version.

According to Warren, the first fort, standing about four-feet tall, was built Feb. 26 by stu- dents Jack Lancto, Tyler Beau- lieu, Wolfgang Corcoran-Mathe son and Elliot Severn. That night, the fort was “reduced to rubble” by another group of allegedly drunken students.

Warren worked with the help of stu- dents Ian Grosskopf, Jason Pat- rick, the fort’s original build- ers, passersby and an Adel Hall worker took nine hours the next day, until 10 p.m., to rebuild the fort, making it taller and adding defensive measures.

"After having rebuilt this fort twice the height and even thick- er than the first fort, it became impossible to defend," Warren said.

One of the original fort build- ers, Lancto, spent the night in the snow fort, complete with a sleeping bag and alarm clock, "to keep a restful watch on it.”

Failing off jeers and accept- ing praise from other students walking by the tightly protected snow fort, the group success- fully prevented another assault.

“We are all very thankful to those that helped, and we’re glad our determination brought people together to produce this snow artwork,” Warren said.

President… continued from front page

ville jumped in on the action, nominating several senators for executive positions. When nomi- nated himself, Mainville said, "No thanks, I’m outta here.” It was a “fun” atmosphere that people clearly enjoyed.

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**Alfred Rugby Club helps 'Jet' owner to move sign to new home**

For the third time since October 2009, the Alfred Rugby Club conducted a public service project for the Alfred community, this time on Feb. 28 for "Jet" owner John Ninos.

"The Alfred Rugby Club was a life saver for me," Ninos said. "I don’t know what I would have done without them. I didn’t know what I was going to do (about the remaining difficult items). My family and I are very grateful for their help."

The "Jet" had been heavily damaged by the Oct. 29, 2009 fire on Main Street that completely destroyed other village businesses. Ninos had been in the process of moving his business to a new location next to Community Bank on Main Street.

Ninos, however, ran into some problems. He had various commercial and other restaurant appliances that he had been unable to move with traditional means. Many were in the basement. All had been damaged by smoke and water during the fire. Several weighed several hundred pounds. There was no easy way to move the items. It was then the club called the Alfred Rugby Club.

Members of the Rugby Club went to work for Ninos, moving the very large, heavy items in tight, confined spaces; things like cook stoves, refrigerators and coolers. The club had about 17 members working that day, and, in the span of about two hours, had cleared the remaining debris and moved the otherwise immovable pieces out of the building.

The Alfred Rugby Club has members from both AU and SUNY Alfred. Spring practice has already begun on Jericho Hill and membership is open to all Alfred college students on both campuses. The club plans on playing five weekend games this spring. In addition to public service, the club will also be hosting a showing of the 2009 rugby film Invincible on April 9 at Nevin’s Theater in Powell Campus Center.

**AU Equestrian Team competes in the Regional Championships**

The AU Equestrian Team competed in the Regional Championships at Cazenovia College on Wednesday the 17. Alita Pickett-Hale and Brittany Biegel both qualified for the Semi-Final Championships which will also be held at Cazenovia College on March 27 and 28. Below are the results from the Regional Championships.

<table>
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<th>Result</th>
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**2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver full of emotions**

The 2010 Winter Olympics were full of many different emotions: glory, heartbreak, and sadness death as well. The games officially opened on Feb. 12 in Vancouver when Governor General Michaëlle Jean declared the beginning of 17 days of international competition. The opening ceremony consisted of different performers such as Nelly Furtado and more than 300 commercial and other restaurant appliances that he had been unable to move with traditional means. Many were in the basement. All had been damaged by smoke and water during the fire. Several weighed several hundred pounds. There was no easy way to move the items. It was then the club called the Alfred Rugby Club.

Members of the Rugby Club helped "Jet" owner John Ninos Feb. 28 to move the restaurant’s sign to its new location on Main Street. The "Jet" took heavy damage from an Oct. 29, 2009 fire that destroyed the building directly adjacent to the restaurant’s old location.

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