Only 12 of 21 vacant faculty positions to be filled for 2009-2010

By Kate Cohen
Billing and Ads Manager

Only 12 of 21 vacant faculty positions have received approval to be filled for the 2009-2010 academic year, President Charles Edmondson announced Oct. 31 at the general faculty meeting.

Edmondson said the faculty positions that have received approval are currently vacant due to faculty retirement, faculty leaving AU, or extenuating circumstances. They have been approved for mostly full-time or tenure-track positions even though most institutions have moved away from hiring long-term professors during the national economic crisis, instead focusing on hiring more adjunct and temporary faculty. In fact, most SUNY schools have had to enact some sort of hiring freeze, he said.

Edmondson says that although AU has great adjunct and temporary professors, tenure-track... Continued on page 5...

Traffic incident causes day-long Internet blackout

By Sam Urann
News Editor

A traffic accident in Alfred Station caused intermittent Internet and power outages Nov. 18 throughout Alfred.

The truck involved in the accident pulled out of Tinkertown Hardware and was traveling east on State Route 244 when the incident occurred. The loading boom on the back of the truck, which had not been properly secured, struck electric, phone and TV cables running above the roadway at 10 a.m., according to an Alfred Police Department press release.

Time Warner Inc. responded by repairing the fiber optic damaged, according to mass e-mails sent by... Continued on page 5...

N.Y. Poet Laureate visits Alfred

By Laura Royouse
Copy Editor

It is not everyday that a writer is fantastic at their craft, a talented orator and an overall fabulous person. Alfred University was graced on Nov. 20 with the presence of a poet who shines in all three of those categories: Jean Valentine.

The current Poet Laureate of New York State, Jean Valentine is, as Assistant Professor of English Juliana Gray puts it, "sublime." With a voice that... Continued on page 5...

Ann's House on schedule to be open by fall 2009

By Tyler Farke
Contributing Writer

With construction moving along as scheduled, the new environmentally friendly residence hall Ann's House will be ready for students by the fall semester of 2009.

"It's neat that it is environmentally sound," Dean of students Dr. Norm Poliak said.

Since May, workers have been busy constructing Ann's House. With the recent overenrollment of AU's campus, this residence hall couldn't come soon enough. The hall will provide more rooms and will give students a quality living option that will keep them on campus for the mandatory six semesters.

Continued on page 5...
Why isn't Alfred ahead of the curve on gas prices?

Jobs are being lost, the stock market is unpredictable and people are becoming scared of having to live paycheck to paycheck. With the economic downturn becoming a reality for most Americans, many are attempting to cut back on their spending to save a little money as they see their retirement plans diminishing with each closing bell in the stock market.

However, not all is bad for people who are looking for some kind relief, because even though the stock market is not leveling off as some hoped, it has caused oil prices to drop drastically from the record highs that we have seen during the last several months. Crude oil hit a record high in July at over $140 a barrel, which caused gas prices to rise well over $4.00 a gallon. Hoping that some sort of relief would come in a timely fashion, people became impatient and nervous, thinking that these prices would stay high, if not increase to over $5.00 a gallon. But as the economy began making its way into the recession we see today, Americans began limiting their travel during the summer months, which according to AAA is one of the most traveled months of the year.

This decline in travel would eventually lead to the fall of oil prices as the demand for gasoline lessened. Oil prices hit under $100 a barrel at the end of the summer, the first time oil was this cheap since last March. The prices of crude oil only kept declining from there as our economy drew deeper into a recession. This decline in prices at the refineries led to the decline in prices at the pump.

Within the past few weeks we have seen oil prices all drop down to $45 a barrel, and it is being reflected at gas stations across the country. Here in Alfred that relief is not being reflected as much as some would hope. The price at the Arrow Mart in Tuckerton is $2.57 a gallon as opposed to the national average of $2.20 and the lowest price of $1.35 found in Graniteville, S.C. It does not seem that Alfred will be lowering its prices to stay ahead of the curve of this economic downturn anytime soon. That is why, if you feel like making the extra trip before going home before Thanksgiving break, you may choose to fill up in places such as Canisteo and Andover where gas is about twenty cents cheaper a gallon.

Gas is becoming cheaper across the southeast; we need to see this same trend occurring locally to reflect the economic troubles our country is facing today. Some relief at the pumps does not mean lives are becoming easier for Americans facing economic troubles, but it does help.

The decline that gasoline prices will continue to fall is becoming a reality for a nation where every cent at the pump makes a difference. Though we may not be seeing as big of a difference here locally as we see on the national level, it is encouraging to see that gas prices are declining and this is allowing the American people to catch their breath from watching their investment plan diminish right in front of their eyes.

It's a small battle won in this ongoing struggle to bring the economy out of the turmoil we have created.

Letter to the Editor: AMA is not as self-serving as you may think

To the Editor:

The Alfred University Chapter of the American Marketing Association (AMA) has had a long history at this school. Unfortunately, parts of that history haven’t set forth a positive image for the future leaders of the student organizations to deal with. In the past two years, the AMA has been working to rebuild the reputation, as well as the membership of the student organization. The problem is, the AMA is still viewed as a self-serving student organization.

This year the AMA has decided to focus more of their efforts on events for the community. We began the semester by hosting two speakers for the university community, motivational speaker Lee Colan and AU adjunct marketing professor Cole Racho, who both drew a diverse crowd to their presentations.

In the month of October, AMA focused on raising money for Passionately Pink for the Cure by holding a pink bake sale and hosting a Halloween Bash for children and families to attend on Halloween Night after trick-or-treating hours came to an early end.

Currently, the members are participating in a friendly competition with the Alfred State Marketing Club and The Gallery, to make a video to help raise awareness about everything that is offered in the town of Alfred. That video can be viewed on the AMA Web site, www.amaa.wordpress.com.

Why I wear my military uniform to class

Every Wednesday I wear my ACUs (Army Combat Uniform) to classes. Every week I get the same question, "Why are you wearing your uniform?" I tried to come up with an answer but it's tough. How can I explain to the questioner exactly why I am wearing a uniform? I generally reply, "I have Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) classes or labs today, and it's required to wear our uniforms." They usually become more curious after I say this because most students do not know what ROTC means, or that Alfred even has an ROTC program. I have reached my wrt's end because I cannot give an answer in a few short minutes explaining ROTC because of all that the training consists of. There is a lot more to being in the program than students realize.

ROTC is a program run by the military to train prospective officers while they are in college. Alfred State and Alfred University are satellite schools of Saint Bonaventure's ROTC program. The ROTC program at St. Bonaventure is run by the Army, while other schools may have ROTC programs run by other military branches: Navy, Air Force, Marines, etc. For most colleges, ROTC classes are accepted for college credits. Once a week, I have a class to learn more about the Army and participate in a hands-on activity so that I may gain practical experience.

There is a class portion and a lab portion that is held once a week. The class usually goes over topics such as rank structure, first-aid, courtesies, etc. The labs usually consist of exercises in the field or other training opportunities. The lab is the really fun part. The best is shooting the M-16, land navigation, or using the paintball guns. Drill ceremony is done periodically to show us how to march. There are two field exercises each year, which consist of activities culminating what we've learned for the semester. A formal military ball is held in the spring semester.

A myth I'd like to dispel is that because you are in ROTC class, you are not committed to serving yet. The only way you would have to commit if you earned a scholarship. If you are granted a scholarship you must sign a contract and take an oath to serve our country. We wear uniforms to our classes on Wednesday because that is the day we have class. It is tradition that we wear them. It displays our pride in the Army, identifies us as part of a group of proud cadets, and reminds us that even though we are college students, we are held and hold ourselves to the standards of soldiers and officers of the United States Army!

If you attend or are thinking about attending Alfred State or Alfred University and have comments or questions, please feel free to contact me via email at cbcb5@alfred.edu, or come check out the class for yourself.

We meet Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in the basement of the Orvis Center on the Alfred State campus.

Cader Kenneth Bellows
First-year

The Fiat welcome 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 fiatux@alfred.edu. Submissions should follow the rules of fair play (i.e. get the facts straight).

Did you know that water bottles are never made from recycled material? To reduce the amount of petroleum used to make plastic bottles, reusable bottles and filtered water is both less expensive and more environmentally friendly!
Are we better off without Greek life?

As a super-senior hoping to graduate this December, I wanted to share some thoughts regarding Alfred University with, and now without, fraternities and sororities. I am a member of Delta Sigma Phi and will likely be the last Greek to receive a bachelor's degree from AU.

In 2003, when I first heard that AU was considering dissolving the Greek system, I immediately started sending e-mails from my office to President Unter and other alumni. These e-mails requested that he and the Board of Trustees solve the problems they were having, not dissolve the Greek tradition. He and I started a dialogue that pushed me toward finishing my degree at AU.

I graduated in 1989 and walked away without my degree in 1993. In 2003, I started taking part-time classes again, and some of my former professors were still around and very supportive. I stopped taking classes in 2004, as the company I worked for couldn't allow me to leave work for Alfred, as we were working through a bankruptcy. I left the company in the summer of 2007 and enrolled full-time to finish my degree in the fall. I basically had been a full timer for the past three semesters and have enjoyed every minute of it.

While being on campus as much as I have been for a year-and-a-half, I started to notice something. The students seemed to get along very well. The interaction between students in classes seemed more respectful, even serious, but what causes that? There are a number of theories behind the pathophysiology of SAD. One theory is that the decreased hours and intensity of daylight may affect the levels of melatonin in the body. Melatonin is a hormone responsible for regulating our natural sleep cycle (known as the circadian rhythm). The level of melatonin in the body is regulated by the amount of light stimulating the retina, the nervous tissue in back of the eye that is responsible for interpreting light. Light signals from the retina are then relayed to the pineal gland, the gland within the brain that is responsible for making melatonin. Another theory about the cause of SAD is that an afflicted person has lower levels of serotonin, a "feel good" neurotransmitter. Okay, how can we treat this condition?

There are a number of potential treatments for SAD. Some possible treatments include light therapy, anti-depression medication, cognitive behavioral therapy, and well-timed supplementation of melatonin. Another treatment that I recommend is aerobic exercise, which has been shown to be as effective as antidepressants and is generally good for you too.

Finally, if you feel that you may be suffering from SAD, I recommend that you make an appointment to meet with the qualified staff at the Crandall Health Center. Don't let SADthis winter! Matthew Cohn is majoring in biology with a minor in exercise science. He has been certified as an emergency medical technician - basic (EMT-B), certified nursing aide (CNA) and personal trainer (NCSC). This article is for entertainment purposes only.

Questions? Comments? Contact Matthew at mae@alfred.edu

AU Health and Fitness: Is Winter Making You Feel SAD? A Look at Seasonal Affective Disorder

Matt Cohn
Staff Writer

Winter is a time of year when we experience snowy, darker days. The lack of sunlight during this time of year may lead to a condition known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). SAD is characterized by feelings of depression, sadness and lethargy that occur much more frequently during the winter season than during the spring and fall. Another symptom is a craving for sweets and other carbohydrates that occurs during the winter season. This condition can be potentially dangerous, as severe depression may occur, which can potentially lead to suicide. So what causes SAD?

There are a number of theories behind the pathophysiology of SAD. One theory is that the decreased hours and intensity of daylight may affect the levels of melatonin in the body. Melatonin is a hormone responsible for regulating our natural sleep cycle (known as the circadian rhythm). The level of melatonin in the body is regulated by the amount of light stimulating the retina, the nervous tissue in back of the eye that is responsible for interpreting light. Light signals from the retina are then relayed to the pineal gland, the gland within the brain that is responsible for making melatonin. Another theory about the cause of SAD is that an afflicted person has lower levels of serotonin, a "feel good" neurotransmitter. Okay, how can we treat this condition?

There are a number of potential treatments for SAD. Some possible treatments include light therapy, anti-depression medication, cognitive behavioral therapy, and well-timed supplementation of melatonin. Another treatment that I recommend is aerobic exercise, which has been shown to be as effective as antidepressants and is generally good for you too.

Finally, if you feel that you may be suffering from SAD, I recommend that you make an appointment to meet with the qualified staff at the Crandall Health Center. Don't let SAD this winter!

Matthew Cohn is majoring in biology with a minor in exercise science. He has been certified as an emergency medical technician - basic (EMT-B), certified nursing aide (CNA) and personal trainer (NCSC). This article is for entertainment purposes only.

Questions? Comments? Contact Matthew at mae@alfred.edu

The race for the 29th district has reached crit-a-Kuhl Mass-a

Joe Martin
Contributing Writer

The race for the 29th district has reached a critical point. Republican Randy Kuhl and Democratic challenger Chris Massa are still not too close. The 29th congressional district, which includes Alfred, is one of two contests left in the country that is still undeclared. This is partly due to the fact that in his 2006 run, he insisted that he not declare victory until every vote is counted. The point is that these elections, at least on a state level, fly in defiance of the old adage that one vote doesn't count. But why?

The race between Republican incumbent Randy Kuhl and Democratic challenger Chris Massa is still very close. The 29th congressional district, which includes Alfred, is one of two contests left in the country that is still undeclared. This is partly due to the fact that in his 2006 run, he insisted that he not declare victory until every vote is counted. The point is that these elections, at least on a state level, fly in defiance of the old adage that one vote doesn't count. But why?

The race between Republican incumbent Randy Kuhl and Democratic challenger Chris Massa is still very close. The 29th congressional district, which includes Alfred, is one of two contests left in the country that is still undeclared. This is partly due to the fact that in his 2006 run, he insisted that he not declare victory until every vote is counted. The point is that these elections, at least on a state level, fly in defiance of the old adage that one vote doesn't count. But why?

The race between Republican incumbent Randy Kuhl and Democratic challenger Chris Massa is still very close. The 29th congressional district, which includes Alfred, is one of two contests left in the country that is still undeclared. This is partly due to the fact that in his 2006 run, he insisted that he not declare victory until every vote is counted. The point is that these elections, at least on a state level, fly in defiance of the old adage that one vote doesn't count. But why?

The race between Republican incumbent Randy Kuhl and Democratic challenger Chris Massa is still very close. The 29th congressional district, which includes Alfred, is one of two contests left in the country that is still undeclared. This is partly due to the fact that in his 2006 run, he insisted that he not declare victory until every vote is counted. The point is that these elections, at least on a state level, fly in defiance of the old adage that one vote doesn't count. But why?
Ask the Alfred computer guy

Mike Stone
Contributing Writer

Our economy: some call it the beginnings of the second Great Depression, some lost the majority of their savings in it, and some are taking advantage of the opportunity that our society has been presented with. After talking to two student leaders from the AU chapter of the Student Managed Investment Fund, I feel it is important to inform the rest of the students in the AU community who are not 100 percent clear about the ins and outs of the stock market.

Gus Golinski and Louis Buscemi, both senior finance majors and executive board members of SMIF, took some time to answer basic questions to give simple advice to those who are interested in but intimidated by the Stock Market. It doesn’t take much to realize the stock market is at its worst point in years right now. What many people don’t understand is that now could be a better time to invest.

Golinski summarized the enormous drop in the stock market quite simply, “During the summer, Bear Stearns shut down, a lot of personal banks were in trouble, and the fed needed to help them out.” Buscemi continued, “This is pretty much all because of sub-prime housing loans. The reason that these major banks are failing is because they are so heavily invested in the housing market. People can’t afford paying mortgages, so the banks are stock paying what they can’t afford.” Sub-Prime Housing loans in simple terms is when banks loan people money people at a fluctuating interest rates, not fixed. The interest rates were rising due to occurrences in the economy and they were drawing too high for homeowners to pay. People lost their houses, and banks lost money.

Now that everyone is on the same page, where do we go from here? To students who are interested in investing, Golinski says, “Do it now or in around the Christmas season, save up some extra money. Go on eBay or one of the online trading sites and invest a little bit.” Buscemi’s advice: “Make sure you join an investment services organization that is FDIC insured, young adults look into an online service provider that offers the lowest brokers service fee as possible.

So now, you know where to go, you know what to do, but what do you look for? Buscemi advises to observe the stocks’ 52 week high low. This is how high and low the stocks have been in the past 52 weeks. It will give you an idea of the potential the stock may have in the future. The best idea is to try to find a stock that is near its 52 week low.

The stock market is a fierce environment full of professionals who trade for a living. There are opportunities both on and off the campus for students to learn, so they can understand investments on a basic level if they don’t plan on majoring in finance.

The Student Managed Investment Fund on campus is open to all students. This is a credit bearing student organization. There is a lab and a class each worth one credit.
Littering is still an issue at AU

By Elizabeth Daniels

now that more people are earth-friendly and environmentally conscious, littering is becoming less of an issue. But how about on Alfred University’s campus?

“During warmer months (littering) increases,” said senior and environmental science Professor Jeff Moskowitz. “People like to hang out and enjoy the outdoors, so they start littering more.”

Green Alfred’s mission, according to its website, is “to advance the recycling system throughout campus and promote innovative energy and to promote sustainability.”

According to Iovovich, the amount of littering this year is about the same as past years on Alfred’s campus.

“I think it’s just laziness that makes people litter,” said senior engineering major Kate Glass. “Iovovich stated that there’s enough garbage cans on campus, but it’s the responsibility of the community to make sure that the garbage ends up in the right places.”

“arbage cans . . . they’re placed well, but we could use more down Academic Alley,” said senior and Powell professor of psychology Ed Gaughan. “We’ll probably do anything to keep the university running smoothly. If that means cutting back on faculty hires, so be it,” she said. “I am not a rich man,” Rummel said, “I do not want to compromise the quality of our students’ quality of education.”

House...continued from front page

Located behind the Ford Street Apartments, the hall will be 15,000 square feet with mostly single rooms, and will have enough room for 48 students. Every two rooms will have an adjoining bathroom to share. This dorm will contribute to the greening of Alfred’s campus. An innovative and environmentally safe materials will help reduce costs and use of energy. Ann’s House will lead the way for more environmentally friendly buildings in Alfred’s future.

Ann’s House is being built on the site of an old Fraternity house, and Pollard believes that the completion of this dorm will signify Alfred’s movement in a new direction, away from the fraternities of the past. "It shows we are moving on," Pollard said.

The construction of Ann’s House is made possible by Joel’s House. Many students complain of the parking situation on campus, and with more parking available at Ann’s House, parking spaces will open up for more students.

The reaction from students on campus is that they are ready for construction to be finished. The process of constructing the dorm has caused minor inconveniences for the residents of the Ford Street Apartments.

Sounds of drilling and hammering can be heard from the rooms of students early in the morning almost seven days a week. The construction also caused the road to be blocked at times during the day, forcing students to find alter-
The Theater Department performed their latest production, "The Contrast" by Royall Tyler, November 12-15 in the C.D. Smith III Theatre. Professor of theater Becky Prophet directed the department's second show of the semester, an early American comedy of manners written and first performed in 1787.

The play, which predates the Constitution, depicts the stark differences between some materialistic, wealthy European expatriates living in New York and the earnest, hard-working, rough-around-the-edges individuals who fervently believe in what America can become.

Sophomore John Hamolski (a native New Hampshirite) played Colonel Henry Manly, the earnest, principled New Englander who contrasts sharply with the snobbish, stylish ladies' man William Van Dumpling (sophomore Steven Patterson). Van Dumpling is engaged to Maria (sophomore Emily Dowd), who loves truth, but is also involved with Maria's bored, gossipy socialite friends Letitia (senior Amanda Holland) and Manly's sister Charlotte (sophomore Melanie Baker), neither of whom know about Dumpling's involvement with the other. The servants Jenny (sophomore Anna Kowalczyk), Mandy (first-year Hope Barnum) and Netty (sophomore Katie Barlow) made small but memorable appearances.

As could be expected, by the end of the play serious Maria has broken her engagement with the two-timing Van Dumpling and set her heart on Manly instead, to the delight of her overbearing father, the merchant Van Rough (first-year Fernando Bolles). Letitia and Charlotte have also made amends with each other and begged Maria's forgiveness.

The play ran 2 and a half hours, and though my interest flagged during a few of the lengthy monologues, in general the performance seemed shorter than it was. The interplay between Van Dumpling's servant Jessamy (sophomore Justin Pietropaolo) and Manly's attendant Jonathan (first-year Nicholas Jimenez) was incredibly amusing, as Jessamy attempted to instruct Jonathan in the ways of society, including how to read a book and laugh in the appropriate places, and how to woo Jenny the servant.

Pietropaolo had the audience in stitches as the pretentious, lacy handkerchief-wielding Jessamy. I was unable to concentrate properly on the dialogue through the fog of pomposity that clouded the air during the scenes in which Van Dumpling and Jessamy appeared together. Patterson and Pietropaolo played off each other both physically and verbally in a marvelous way. I thought the acting in the show was fantastic—at times over the top physical comedy, at times subtle eye-rolling and wrist-flicking—and the dialogue, although lengthy, was snarky and fun.

The costumes for the show were like fluffy pastries—towering powdered wigs and giant hoop skirts for the ladies and Beauty and the Beast-style suits for the men. A large beauty mark graced the face of each actor, sitting atop the veritable icing of white face paint and drawn-on arched eyebrows and lacquer-red lips. The plush couches and rich furniture of the set also contributed to the overall decadent, luscious feel of the play.

The play took a fun and humorous, though sincere, look at the ideals on which our country was founded, and the contrast between those who believed in and actively sought to enact those ideals and those too frivolous and privileged to think of anything beyond their own hedonism. I must admit, though, I wasn't ready for the winsome frivolity of Charlotte, Letitia, Van Dumpling, and especially Jessamy, to end.
By Harold Stuntner

Office Manager

The latest Coen brothers' film, "Burn after Reading," is an amusing comedy with an all-star cast, including George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Tilda Swinton. The story revolves around a CD belonging to a CIA agent that is found in the locker room of a gym. Brad Pitt and his co-worker at the gym try blackmailing a CIA agent, played by the always great John Malkovich. The story was all around funny owing to the great physical humor between the characters, along with the amazing dialogue. It's also fun to watch the events of the movie unfold knowing that none of the characters have all of the facts about what is going on.

The only real problem with the movie is the plot itself. There are a lot of sub plots happening at the same time as the main events of the story are unfolding. This makes it easy for the viewer to forget what the main story line is, and when the movie finally circles back to it, you've forgotten what was going on in the first place. In addition, when they flip back to the sub plots it's hard to remember what is going on with each character. It is remarkable how they can make a movie that at first glance appears to be about nothing so confusing at times.

The acting in the movie was well done and balanced in the way it used actors like Brad Pitt, who plays a somewhat out-of-it gym trainer, blundering around in a comical fashion, and balanced him out with the always wonderful Tilda Swinton. Swinton plays the more serious role of a woman undergoing a divorce and having an affair with a married man in the meantime.

Although the plot is confusing and that acting only barely makes up for it at times, this is a good movie for those who are looking for a good laugh and are not looking for deep substance in the film. "Burn After Reading" will play in Nevins Theater Dec. 5 and 7.

The College Voice is the student newspaper of California State Monterey Bay. This newspaper is owned, operated and produced by students of CSUMB. The college voice is not subject to change. The survey for each month's student-choice movies will be available at www.mylitics.com. AUTV is on campus only. Questions and comments can be sent to mlitics@csusb.edu.

Art Union held a silent auction and a Bollywood-style dance show (performed by the Middle Eastern Dance Organization) in the Harder Hall lobby Nov. 5-7 to benefit Indian children. Artwork was submitted by students, faculty and local artists, and the auction raised just over $2,000 for the Maya Free School initiative, which provides services for children from the dalits (or untouchable) caste in India.

The highest bid went to "Ceramic Bubble Plate," by senior Jessie Caccamo, and the second highest bid went to "Fruit Bowl," by Liz Sparks. For more information about the Maya Free School, visit http://www.magicinmaya.com/
Lee Collins lets AU on the secret to success

By Kate Cohen
Billing and Ad Manager

It’s not news that perseverance is the key to success; it is the steps you take to persevere that will make you successful, Dr. Lee Collins, a motivational speaker on leadership, told AU in Nevin Theater on Nov. 11.

Solar energy is aiding the world from New Jersey to Africa, AU Alumni and senior sales engineer for Morningstar Corporation Brad Berwald told the AU faculty and students on Oct. 31 at the Room Lecture Hall.

Berwald graduated from Alfred with a degree in electrical engineering and then completed a master’s degree in business administration. He was invited back to Alfred by the Environmental Studies Seminar Series.

Morningstar Corporation is using solar energy to help countries all over the world. Berwald told the audience the scientific background of Morningstar’s specific off-grid solar module and detailed the positives and negatives of using solar energy.

Berwald said that there are currently two types of solar energy systems: on-grid and off-grid. The off-grid system connects directly to the user’s electric meter with no means of storage, and the off-grid system deals with the solar energy in a battery bank. Berwald explained that Morningstar Corporation formulated an off-grid system thus enabling Morningstar Corporation to possess a diverse market that is interested in using off-grid solar technology.

This market ranges from powering lighting in rural homes and high way traffic signs to powering telemetry (instruments used to tell the weather).

“The best thing of the solar modules is that it is infinitely skilled,” Berwald said.

Berwald pointed out that although solar energy is a very promising energy source it is by no means flawless. The process to build modular technologies uses toxins such as cadmium and arsenic, very dangerous materials, he said.

“Solar energy is clean producing, but it is not the perfect source,” Berwald said.

However, solar energy is a safer energy source compared to other countries such as Ecuador. Morningstar Corporation and Berwald have helped Ecuador provide a safe and healthy lasting fluorescent light through their off-grid systems instead of dangerous kerosene lighting Ecuador readily used before.

Although solar energy may not be the perfect source it definitely is a revolution in the right direction.

“Morningstar is intrigued by the future,” Berwald said.

Slam Poet Eboni entertains audience in Ade

By Sara Kam Yan Vyen
Student Manager

Eboni, the Slam Poet who performed 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at Ade Dining Hall, is an African-American young woman who came all the way from New York City. Eboni lives in Brooklyn, where she said it is scary and quiet. Therefore, when she got off the bus at Alfred, Eboni joked, she was scared. She immediately wanted to go back to New York City, where police booths are everywhere.

Eboni loves to smile, and cracked many jokes during the event.

The first few poems that Eboni performed were all about sex and relationships. Eboni started off with a poem about drunken men and women in a bar, which she dedicated to her ex-boyfriend.

Eboni wrote a poem for her ex-boyfriend, a guy she called a “mother f**ker.” She described scenes of listless, her ex-boyfriend’s heart beat and digging nails into his back.

Apparently when Eboni read this poem to her ex-boyfriend, the only thing that he said was, “It’s cute.”

Eboni also wrote a poem for her current boyfriend. She talked about women in this poem. Eboni thinks women who have ugly interior should have ugly exterior, which is not so true in reality. Eboni had to look at the mirror, and put her hair up and down. She had to spend time on making herself pretty to feel that she was enough to make her boyfriend love her. And hilariously enough, when Eboni read this poem to her boyfriend, he had the same response as her ex-boyfriend: “It’s cute.”

Eboni performed a poem titled “Dirty Mouth.” It was about her part-time job performing phone sex when she was studying at New York University. At that time, Eboni had no money because the college textbooks were too expensive. She did not want to humiliate herself by shoplifting tampons and stealing toilet paper from Starbucks. Since there was nothing that she could do, she decided to be a phone sex operator. Eboni’s father told her, no matter what she does, she has to be the best. Therefore, instead of a “phone sex operator,” she called herself a “fantasy conversation specialist.” Eboni said, “When I am listening, I am sexy,” and that this was what made her a good phone sex operator. She told the audience not to be phone sex operators because the job is gross and you do not get paid enough.

Eboni has spent 6 months in Ghana. She studied at a university and taught in a refugee camp at the same time. The experience inspired her to write a poem about the Elmina Castle in Ghana, which was built in 1422 by the Portuguese. The Elmina Castle was built because of the slave trade. A few hundred years later, no one can forget the “Ballade of Elmina.” When Eboni walked across Wall Street, she was walking on bones. Eboni is American because “someone crossed the ocean and died surviving.” She explained this poem because she would like to pass something on.

The following poem was about Eboni’s grandma who passed away very long time ago. She described a scene at the funeral home. There were children at the funeral, but they were not as mischievous as they normally were. This was because “when your grandma dies, you are just human.” Eboni found her grand- ma’s hair everywhere in the house, this made her feel like she was just waiting for her grandma to wake up. Eboni’s grandma told her, “When you were thinking about what your grandma would wear when they bury her. No one would ever see what her grandma wore when she was buried. No matter what Eboni’s grandma wore, “she will always be just beautiful.”

The last poem of the event was one that Eboni wrote drunkenly on Nov. 4, Election Day. According to Eboni, New York City exploded because of Obama’s victory. Eboni wrote this poem to be a protection spell for Obama. Eboni said she was working on the poem, and the AU audience was the first to hear it. Eboni wrote that we have to watch over the dreams of our children, and let America become a “garden of free slaves.”

Eboni believes Obama needs more people in America, and she said she can go wherever his blood draws him. The victory of Obama is a leg- end, it happened because there is more democracy, and hope alive in the world.
Arts Center, or McLane Physical Education indoors: flies, and lots of them.

"A lot of problems can be observed best in buildings such as the Miller Performance Arts Center, or McLane Physical Education Center where piles of dead and dying flies cover the gym floor," according to AU Junior Danielle Cooper, a women’s basketball team member.

"I see on hundreds of dead flies, almost every practice," she said.

Though flies may have always been in Alfred, there seems to be more than usual this semester, according to many AU community members.

Not long ago a student would have been able to practice the piano in Miller without hearing flies buzzing around. Today in Miller, in the larger practice rooms, it is almost guaranteed that not only will several flies be bumping against windows, dozens more will be dead or dying on windowsills and floors.

According to Professor of Biology Gordon Godshalk, if people think that the problem is bad today, they should have been here 20 years ago. He remembers working on his house many years back and encountering thousands of flies under a single sheet of tarp paper.

If windy weather conditions are not enough to drive Alfred residents crazy, the abundance of flies is helping the process along. Locals want to know why these flies are here and it seems that the weather may be the blame.

These are not regular houseflies; they tend to be way more sluggish and are most common in the northern parts of the United States. They are usually found "clustering" around windows and warm places.

Cluster flies may be many things, but they are definitely not harmful, said Godshalk.

"There’s no reason to get rid of them - they pose no health threat," said Godshalk.

"In the northern parts of the United States. They are most likely cluster flies, according to Godshalk. Cluster flies are parasites of earthworms, and earthworms thrive in moisture. Since this past summer had more rain than usual there were more earthworms.

The result: a cluster fly invasion.

"Many people don’t know is that these flies are not regular houseflies; they are bigger than a regular housefly. According to Bugclinic.com, they are definitely not harmful, said Godshalk. "They’re just annoying, you learn to deal with them," she said.

Students should feed pets inside our front door every night."

What to do about Alfred’s smelly skunk friends

By Andrew Rosen
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 15 Carolyn Kassonoff, a senior Art and Design major, experienced a too-close encounter with a skunk.

"My room got sprayed by a skunk and now I am living in my living room," she explained. "It really got my attention when it happened."

The window was open and a skunk sprayed something that attacked it. "I think," Kassonoff said.

Incidents like this have been happening throughout the semester.

There has been a rise of skunk sightings and smell around Alfred. Many students don’t know how to react to these sightings and often get scared. However, if you follow these tips, you will know how to deal with skunks and never have to worry again.

People see skunks and instantly get scared because the first thing they think about is being sprayed. What people don’t know is that skunks don’t even like their own smell. They spray only when they are frightened, because it is their defense.

According to Evergreen Animal Protection League, people should limit the amount of bird seed, pet food, piles of brush, gardens and garbage seen around the outside of your home. Skunks are attracted to these "objects."

"To avoid attracting skunks, people should feed pets inside or remove food after a meal and keep BBQ grills clean and stored in garage or shed. Also, keep garbage in metal sealable containers and pick up any fruit in your yard. Skunks are very sneaky and leave trash wherever they please. This only increases the skunk population."

Students should feed pets inside our front door every night.

"You can bring anything to our residence, try putting rags soaked in ammonia around the yard or socks filled with moth balls. These two methods create stenches that will force the skunk to stay away from your house.

If you ever encounter a skunk, never pet it by throwing things at it. This will only makes it angry.

The best thing to do is either walk away and seek an alternative route or, if it is blocking your path, make yourself huge by opening your jacket. This will frighten the skunk and make it run away.

If you are ever sprayed by a skunk, you should use hydrogen peroxide. If you take that and mix some baking soda in, you can make an old standby remedy for the removal of skunk spray.

These tips and various others can be found at the Evergreen Animal Protection League and if anyone ever has any problems with a skunk who won’t leave, call Public Safety at 1-607-587-2108.

Bookstore representatives speak to Senate about high prices

By Sam Urann
News Editor

Three staff members from the Alfred University Bookstore spoke to Student Senate in order to address student’s concerns about high prices.

"The wholesalers are setting the price; we have no control over it," Marcy Bradley, the manager of the AU Bookstore explained.

"It was another topic students wanted to look into," Bradley said.

The price of books and the price of any other books that are being bought back is the topic of greatest concern. Bradley explained the system the bookstore uses to set buyback prices. A rating scale of 1 to 9 is utilized, with 1 meaning nobody uses the book and 9 meaning many campuses use it. The books then receive an appropriate value.

Another reason for the bookstore’s current policies is that they have no storage area. "What you see is what you get," Bradley said.

Bradley added that during the designated buyback schedule, students will receive 50 percent of the book’s value.

There is a new feature available on the AU bookstore website that allows students (or anyone else) to access a small list of books that are being bought back for 50 percent only on our campus. Bradley said.

"The date for the buyback list is at "the industry standard."

The high price of art supplies was another topic students had questions about. Marcy moved on to explain that art supplies at the bookstore are typically priced at or lower than manufacturing. She also suggested that art students can buy in bulk together to save money.

"We are well below list price almost $3," Bradley said, adding you can bring anything to our residence."

As for student organizations wishing to sell items like t-shirts, they can partner with the bookstore. The student organization receives approximately 20 percent after the university, and the bookstore takes their percentages.

Resident assistants and resident directors receive a discount for a short time period, and Bradley said that these times are hectic, and she will look into whether these periods can be extended.

The AU Bookstore is located on the second floor of Powell Campus Center.
Dear Luxie,

My roommate snores. Not a whimper, not a light purr; we're talking halftime at Ohio State. Our room is a lumber mill after she goes to sleep. What can I do?

-Pained Ears Need Solution

Dear Need,

First of all, make sure she knows about it. Once you've done that, the answer depends on how your roommate deals with the snoring. Once she knows about it, she can do one of three things.

(1) She can work with you, and go to the health center to get it checked out, and perhaps buy you ear muffs or something. Or

(b) She can deny it. Or

(c) She can admit to it, but refuse to do anything.

If she takes one of the last two stances, you have several choices.

You can hope it's from her vocal chords, and hum a tune you like. Hopefully she'll subconsciously take up the tune, and her irritating snoring will turn into a beautiful concerto that will help lull you to sleep.

Or you put an aluminum tube that leads up to the ceiling over her face so the sound annoys those noisy neighbors upstairs. You'll have to put it on after she goes to sleep and remove it before she wakes up so she doesn't find out about it, or she will work to thwart your plans.

Your last choice is to become a carpenter, so at least you can use all that wood.

-Luxie

Dear Luxie is written by Luxie Taif, and does not represent the opinions of the Fiat Lux as an organization, or its staff. Dear Luxie is a (mostly) humorous column, providing a satirical view of questions sent in by YOU, the reader, and should probably not be taken seriously. In fact, it DEFINITELY shouldn't be taken seriously. So don't.

If you have a question for Luxie, you can email it to the Fiat Lux at fiatlux@alfred.edu with "Dear Luxie" as the subject line or send it to the Fiat's mailbox anonymously by addressing the envelope to:

Hat Lux
Alfred University
Yadda yadda yadda

Author's Note: I don't know about houseflies, but we definitely caught a lot of fruit flies with our vinegar bowl. Hooray science!

Fiat Crossword

ACROSS
1. Almost single handedly built the observatory, later named after him.  
3. Created a somewhat unsavory lamp. Hero to mice.  
6. Because of this AU students are writing frantically to 50,000 words this Nov.  
10. Non-artists hesitate to go here for fear of getting lost. There is a rumor that there is a Minotaur in the center.  
11. Vice president of student Senate.  
12. Bimennial dance held by Spectrum.  
13. Homecoming king.  
14. The newest first-year resident hall.  
15. Student Senate funds this buss to provide transportation to the Wegman's-Walmart plaza.  

DOWN
2. Heath Ledger played a spectacular Joker in The Dark Knight, shown here.  
4. Really loud, but the way to rally volunteers when there is a fire alarm.  
5. Half was performed here.  
7. This annual basketball game is held between AU and ASC.  
8. In charge of dining services.  
9. Homecoming queen.  

Author's Note: I don't know about houseflies, but we definitely caught a lot of fruit flies with our vinegar bowl. Hooray science!
The Alfred University women’s swimming and diving team knocked off visiting William Smith, beating visiting William Smith, of the season Saturday afternoon, (0-3 Empire 8). Leading the way for AU women’s swimming and diving was Sara Caccamo (Bollston Lake, NY/Shenendehowa) who swept the 1-meter and 3-meter diving events.

By Lauren Peterson
Contributing Writer

The women’s basketball team is determined that with hard work, a positive attitude and accountability, it can change the program around for the 2008-2009 season. With an overall record last season of just 2-21, the women’s basketball program is making big changes this season. New head coach, Jay Murphy, was appointed to the post in May 2008. He is now taking over the women’s team after 13 seasons as the AU men’s head basketball coach. Coach Murphy’s main focus is to get his players more comfortable with a motion offense and a pack defense.

“With hard work, defense wins games,” said Murphy.

First-year assistant coach, Kris T. Sauntori, with her experience hopes to add something to the program. Coach Sauntori, who recently graduated in Spring of 2008, says that by being closer in age to these girls and recently participating in a lot of tournament play, she can relate with players on a certain level.

“I hope these girls learn a lot this season, stay positive, and mainly always have fun,” said Sauntori. The coaching staff and players believe that if they come together as a team, nothing is stopping them from winning 20 or more games this year.

Carl Embury (Perry, NY/Perry) chipped in with 10 and nine points respectively.

For their performance, Barry and Embury both earned All-Tournament honors. Barry finished the tournament with 39 points, five rebounds, three assists, and three steals while Embury added 24 points, 13 rebounds, five steals, one assist, and one blocked shot.

Left: Jay Murphy, former Alfred men’s basketball head coach, was appointed the head coach of the women’s team in May 2008.

Murphy takes over a team that finished 2-21 last season.

AU women’s swimming and diving team knocks off visiting William Smith

The Alfred University’s women’s swimming and diving team earned its second dual meet win of the season Saturday afternoon, beating visiting William Smith, 134-107.

Right: An AU diver in action on Friday Nov. 14 as the AU women’s swimming and diving team defeated William Smith, 134-107.

The Alfred University English equestrian team places second in pair of weekend shows

The Alfred University English equestrian team competed in a pair of shows over the weekend, placing second of 15 teams at each show. One show was hosted by Nazareth, the other by Geneseo; both were held at Lehman Farms in Pittsfield, NY.

Winning first-place ribbons in the Nazareth show were, Theresa Wills (Ransomville, NY/Lewis–Porter) in open equitation on fences; Maitre Congrave (White Haven, PA/Bishop Hobbs) in intermediate equitation over fences and open equitation on the flat; Barbara Koziol (Syracuse, NY/Bishop Ludden) in intermediate equitation over fences; Joseph Romeo (Summit, NY/Morrisontown–Bardonia) in intermediate equitation over fences; Beth Uhreth (Penn Furnace, PA/State College) in novice equitation on the flat; and Alicia Picket-Hale (Concord, NH/Concord) in novice equitation on the flat.

Kiley Rusbolt (Ontario, NY/Wayne) took second in novice equitation over fences and third in novice equitation on the flat; Katherine Kennedy (Horseheads, NY/Horseheads) was third in open equitation on the flat; Michelle Flamer (Syracuse, NY/Westhill) and Lyndsey Patterson (Belmont, NY/Belmont) were both third in advanced walk-trot-canter; Shaina Muir (Powell, OH/Dublin–Scioto) was sixth in open equitation over fences; Kayla Summerville (Fairport, NY/Fairport) was fourth in novice equitation over fences; Steve Pikotowski (Greenwich, NY/Cunderland Regional), and Sandy Buxley (Bayside, NY/St. Francis Prep) were third and fifth, respectively, in walk-trot, and Natalie Gay (Hasten, NY/Park) was fifth in intermediate equitation on the flat.

AU riders who earned first-place ribbons in the Geneseo show were; Wills in open equitation over fences and Elyse Carroll in walk-trot. Kennedy was fourth in open equitation over fences and Koziol was second in intermediate equitation on the flat; Ulbrecht was second in intermediate equitation over fences and third in novice equitation on the flat; Kisteinold was second in novice equitation over fences and third at novice equitation on the flat; Danielle Ross (Saratoga, NY/Saratoga) was fourth in novice equitation over fences; Kate West (Pavilion, NY/Pavilion) was third in novice equitation over fences and second in novice equitation on the flat; Muir was fifth in open equitation on the flat.

By Lauren Peterson

The English equestrian team poses with its champion ribbon after finishing first out of twelve teams in a showing at Geneseo on Oct. 25.
Lady Saxon softball team a hidden gem

Program looking to expand its facility needs

By Abbey Shaffnit
Contributing Writer

The women's softball program is approaching its 20th year at Alfred University, and as the 2009 season gets closer, players are unsatisfied with the fact that they still won't have a home field to play on.

"It's embarrassing," said junior captain Jessica Figallo. "We're a good team and we don't have the facilities to prove it.

Only days before students returned to AU this fall, the decision to begin the field was acted on. An infield was dug on Tucker, which is a commonly used practice field for many other teams on campus.

However, throughout the entire fall ball season the field remained untouched by any softball players, leaving not only the team, but other students and coaches confused.

After all of the struggle to get the field, why isn't it being used?

Athletic Director, Jim Moretti, thought so as well.

"The last second win was awesome... I play football to be in the spotlight," Secky said.

None of the Saxons three regular season defeats were by less than eight points. This time the Saxons came out on top of a close game, one that grants the team a chance to play one more week.

"We would like to turn the practice field into a regulation softball field," said Moretti. "That will happen as soon as we relocate the practice field, Tucker which is expected to be in 2010.

Many people remember the 2006-2007 season, when the women who are now juniors came to Alfred as freshmen and helped rebuild the softball program, in the 2007 season, the team finished 3rd in the Empire 8 conference and 2nd in the ECAC tournament, only to improve in 2008, when they finished 2nd in Empire 8 and 2nd again at ECAC's."

Knowing the field won't be completed until after the 2010 season, it seems unfair that the women who work so hard to bring winning titles to Alfred University won't be able to host a single home game throughout their entire collegiate career.

"It's tough to play 40 to 45 games on the road. It would be nice to have a home field advantage once in a while," said Olivieri.

Although the women in the junior and senior classes know they won't see a home field anytime soon, they are still upbeat. "You don't need a field to have talent," said junior Jordan Siefer.

Coach Olivieri stated that the junior class has paved the way for a lot of things. Not only have they initiated the construction of the first softball field on campus, they have proven to be the key players in the rebuild of the softball program."

Lady Saxon softball team a hidden gem

Program looking to expand its facility needs

Football ends regular season, beating Fisher

A Cardinal comeback forces OT, but AU prevails

By Nathan Weiser
Copy Editor

Alfred won an overtime thriller against St. John Fisher, 16-13, during its regular season finale, in the rain, on Nov. 15.

AU won the coin toss and elected to go on defense first, and the move proved to pay off. Fisher started with the ball, and they were not able to put together much offense, so they had to settle for a 25-yard field goal. That would prove costly because on the Saxons first play of the ensuing possession, quarterback Tom Secky fired a 25-yard pass for the game winner to receiver Trevor Bork.

It was exhilarating watching a game go right down to the wire, while seeing AU come out one top, and quarterback Tom Secky scored three interceptions, two sacks, one blocked PAT, and a fumble recovery.

The team surely had a competitive season, but it could have been just a bit better according to Secky.

"I wouldn't say we met our expectations this year, but we were very close. We certainly had a successful year and we ended our regular season 7-3, and we very well could have been 10-0," said Secky.

The squad traveled to RPI for an East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) bowl championship game on Nov. 22.

Alfred University's Agro earns weekly swimming honors from Empire 8

Brian Agro (Gray, ME/Cheverus), a senior on the Alfred University men's swimming and diving team, has been named men's swimming Athlete of the Week by the Empire 8 Conference.

Agro was honored for his performance in a dual meet Friday at home against Fredonia, in which he won the 100-yard breaststroke. His time of 58.61 seconds broke the AU pool record established in 1983 by former Saxon great Howard Siegeman, who was a six-time NCAA champion breaststroker at AU.

Alfred defeated Fredonia, 129-102, to run the Saxons' dual-meet winning streak to 26 straight. Alfred (5-0, 3-0 Empire 8) competes next at the RIT Invitational meet, Dec. 5-7.