

## **Alfred University alumni among participating artists for Fluorescentball**

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Four Alfred University graduates will be among the artists participating in the Rare Earth Fluorescentball to be held Monday, May 16, from 7 p.m. - midnight at the Museum of Arts & Design, located at 2 Columbus Circle, New York, NY. The event is a "contemporary arts gala benefit celebrating the Museum of Arts & Design's third anniversary. It brings together artists, young patrons, and other notables with a goal of raising \$250,000 to support the Museum's hands-on arts educational programs for New York public school children. Among the AU alumni participating are: Jennifer Elek, a 1994 alumna, who is now living and working in Seattle, WA. Following graduation from AU, Elek continued her education at the Pilchuck Glass School and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. In addition to teaching and working at the Pilchuck Glass School, Elek has worked for artists such as Lino Tagliapietra and Dale Chihuly. She has also taught glassblowing workshops throughout the United States, as well as in Israel, Canada and Japan. Mark Christopher Kessel, a 2004 graduate of AU, from Indian Shores, FL. Mark O. Naylor, a 2006 graduate who earned both a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of Art & Design and a B.S. degree in glass science from the Inamori School of Engineering at Alfred University. Naylor is now working on a Ph.D. in glass science. He received a Richard Kelly grant for his work with luminous art created with fluorescent rare-earth doped glass and sequential ultraviolet excitation. Leo Tecosky, a 2003 alumnus. Since earning his BFA from Alfred, Tecosky has been a teaching assistant at the Pilchuck Glass School and an instructor at UrbanGlass, as well as an artist-in-residence at the Museum of Luminous Phenomena (the neon studio at Alfred University's School of Art & Design). He participated in the studio assistantship program at Wheaton Village and most recently was an assistant at Kienell Glass Studio in Sunne, Sweden. His work has been shown at the Museum of Neon Art in Los Angeles; High Street Design in Millville, NJ; and in a solo exhibition at Go Fish Gallery in Manhattan. Five current students in the glass program at Alfred University, which is ranked number two in the nation among all schools offering MFA degrees in glass art, will be working with Tecosky and Naylor to create a group piece that will be installed in the seventh floor window of the Museum, facing Broadway, to illuminate the window during the ball. For more information about the Rare Earths Fluorescent Ball: <http://www.thefluorescent...> more information about Alfred University's School of Art & Design: <http://art.alfred.edu>