

Alfred University students take top honors at regional theater festival

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For the fifth year in a row, Alfred University students won top honors at the Region II Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) competition, held at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA earlier this month. Alfred University's theater department was represented at the festival by 15 acting and design/technical students and two faculty members. Elizabeth (Betsy) Van Deusen, a senior in the School of Art & Design, will advance for the second consecutive year to the national competition at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, in April. A graduate of Brockport (NY) High School, Van Deusen, won the Region II Mehron Makeup Design Award for Excellence in Makeup Design for the AU Theatre Department's spring '04 production of *Fiddler on the Roof* by Bock, Stein and Harnick. Her award was the sole regional honor given in the make-up design category. Van Deusen also received the "KCACTF Region II Barbizon Award for Theatrical Design Excellence in Costume Design alternate for her costumes designs for *Cloud Nine* by Caryl Churchill, one of the AU theatre department's fall productions. Other student successes at the regional festival included Jennifer Mc Clure of Trenton, NJ, a senior art & design major, and Theresa Honti of Wellsville, NY, a junior majoring in psychology. Mc Clure received the Region II Properties Artisan Award. Honti, who was invited to participate in the Irene Ryan acting competition based on her excellent portrayal of the role of Prudence in the Fall production of *Beyond Therapy* by Christopher Durang, reached the semi-final round of 36 actors, competing against approximately 275 other collegiate actors from the region. "This continued success at the regional festival, where we compete against some of the best schools in the Northeast, points to the excellence of our students and the high caliber of instruction they are receiving", said Stephen Crosby, professor of theater and chair of the Performing Arts Division. Crosby noted that Alfred University will receive national recognition for its accomplishments in publications that are sent to colleges and universities throughout the country. Region II of KCACTF includes New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware and Washington, DC. The purpose of the Mehron and Barbizon Awards for Theatrical Design Excellence is to give outstanding student designers national recognition and the opportunity to exhibit their work at the Kennedy Center. Designs are appraised on the basis of quality, effectiveness, originality, and rendering techniques. Designs may be selected for the regional festival regardless of whether the production itself is selected for the regional festival. Regional design respondents select one winner in each area: set design, costume design, lighting design, makeup design, from the regional design entries. Designs of the eight regional finalists in each category will be on display during the KCACTF national festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D. C., in April, 2005. A national winner in set design, a national winner in costume design, a national winner in lighting design, and a national winner in make-up design will be selected from regional finalists during the national festival. National winners will receive an honorarium of \$500 and all-expenses paid trips to New York City or Las Vegas for workshops and opportunities to visit the studios of distinguished designers and the offices of either Mehron or Barbizon Inc., a premier theatrical supply house specializing in advanced lighting for professionals.