

Alfred University honors students, club, staff at annual spring Leadership Dinner

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Paige Jensen '14, '15 (MBA)
speaks at the annual spring
Student Leadership Dinner.

ALFRED, NY Alfred University hosted its annual spring Student Leadership Dinner on April 25, with several students, clubs and staff were recognized for outstanding contributions to the campus. Honored groups included club and organization presidents, orientation guides, student-athletes, Alfred's Newest Talent graduates, Women's Leadership Academy graduates and Resident Assistants.

Alfred University alumna Paige Jensen, who earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in 2014 and an MBA in 2015, was the keynote speaker. Jensen is the queen of sales for Pageant Planet, the world's largest pageant resource, and also serves as marketing director for American Pageants, a scholarship and recognition program for girls and women ages 7-24. She is a model and was a competitor in the Miss Idaho USA pageant in 2016, and will be again this year. A well-rounded, active, smart and enthusiastic student at Alfred University, the subject of her talk at the Student Leadership Dinner was "Small Communities, Big Opportunities."

John Lewis '03, director of student activities, announced the 2018 Richard V. Bergren Jr. Student Innovation Awards. This year, two programs Oktoberfest fall festival and Thirsty Thursday shared the winning spot. Oktoberfest was started by seniors Seth Steele, Ashlee Wilmier and Jessica Cheng. Thirsty Thursday was started by the Asians in America club, which brought a very popular Taiwanese drink, bubble tea, to Alfred, expanding one aspect of the Asian culture to those who may not have been familiar with it.

The Alpha Kappa Omicron (AKO) Achievement Award is given to an Alfred University woman who has demonstrated excellence in personal academic leadership. Anastasia Campbell, a junior from Rochester majoring in criminal justice studies (minor in public law) received the award. Elisabeth Estep, a senior from Horseheads, NY, majoring in biology (minors in Spanish and chemistry) received the AKO Social Change Leadership Award.

The award for Outstanding Campus Contribution by a First-Year Student, given by Tricia Debertolis, associate dean of

students, went to Simone Ferguson, an art and design major (minor in visual arts education) from Wayne, NJ.

Vicky Gebel, director of residence life, announced the recipient of the 2018 Resident Assistant of the Year Award, which also went to Estep; and the Rookie (new resident assistant) of the Year Award, which was given to Emily Martin a junior art and design major from Lancaster, NY.

Kathy Woughter, vice president for Student Affairs, and Norm Pollard, dean of students, awarded the annual Saxon Seven Awards to seniors who were chosen for their overall campus impact and leadership throughout their years at AU. The students recognized were Charlie Best, art and design major from Alden, NY; Justin Fossum, mechanical engineering major (minors in global studies and cultural anthropology) from West Simsbury, CT; Taylor Jaczko, foreign language/cultural studies major (minors in global studies and cultural anthropology) from Newburgh, NY; Summer Markajani, psychology major (minor in women&s and gender studies and writing) from Newark, NY; Savannah Markajani, psychology major (minors in gerontology and sociology) from Newark, NY; Elvira Rodriguez, Spanish major (minor in social justice studies) from Woodside, NY; and Kelsey Oliveira, global studies major (minors in cultural anthropology and psychology) from Valley Stream, NY.

Recognition was also given to the following Student Affairs division award winners:

Mariah Evans, administrative assistant, Opportunity Programs, was awarded the Positive Thinker Award, given to the person who helps everyone look on the bright side.

Vicky Gebel, director, Residence Life, and Karen Porter, administrative assistant, Residence Life, are Student Affairs& Unsung Heroes, given to those who fly under the radar, but without whom we would be lost.

Team Players honorees were Amanda Khodorkovskaya, health and wellness coordinator, Wellness Center, and Shakima Clency, diversity fellow, Center for Student Involvement. The awards are given to the people that are your dream collaborators or mentors.

The Division of Student Affairs Student Staff Members of the Year awards went to Kelley Staub, junior accounting major (criminal justice minor) from Eden, NY, and Kassie McCarn, graduate student in college student development from Gouverneur, NY. This award goes to the student staff members who have made a huge positive impact on their office, the division or their fellow students.

Program of the Year awards went to Cheryl&s Closet, which provides a place for students to go to find appropriate clothing for interviews or meetings, and the Alfred University Food Pantry, providing food to not only students but the Alfred community for those in need.

University President Mark Zupan and Pollard closed the program, along with President-For-A-Day Anastasia Campbell.