

Bike tour makes Alfred first choice

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President Edmondson and students on Alfred University's new tour bike.

The Cook family of Elmira made what they thought was a routine appointment to allow son Brandon to tour the Alfred University campus Thursday morning. They arrived about the same time the University was formally unveiling its new seven-person bike, which will be offered as a tour option to prospective students and their families. (See <http://www.alfred.edu/adm...>) "They asked if they could do a campus tour by bike," said Jodi Bailey, director of marketing. "I told them yes, if they could wait until the afternoon." That's because the bike - which has 14 pedals, seven seats, a steering wheel in place of handlebars and resembles a cross between a bicycle and tricycle - was busy for more than two hours this morning and into the lunch hour as more than 100 students, faculty and staff took a spin. It was worth the wait, said Brandon Cook, who moved AU to the top of his list of colleges as a result of the bike tour. "The bike ride clinched it! This is my first-choice college. There is a fun atmosphere here" and the bike is "really, really cool." Brandon noted that he had visited five other campuses in New York State, all of them, including AU, known for their "outstanding academics." The bike tour certainly sets Alfred University apart, his mother, Cindy, said. "We had a great time. It's really neat on a number of levels. It sets Alfred apart." When you've toured a number of campuses, they tend to "all muddle in your mind." But no other campus had a bike. She said she enjoyed both the "whimsy" and the "physics of the bike." She added, "It looks like a Dr. Seussian contraption!" Younger brother Devin agreed. It was "really fun," he said. At the wheel was Courtney Wilcox of Bath, a junior majoring in art and design, who is a tour guide at the University. The University initially plans to offer the bike tour option on Mondays and Fridays, weather permitting. Additional bike tour slots will be added if there is sufficient interest. (See <http://www.alfred.edu/pre...>) Those wishing to tour Alfred University - on the bike or on foot - may register by calling the Admissions Office at 800-541-9229.