

**APRIL 2022**

**VOLUME 119 #3**

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ALFRED UNIVERSITY**

# ***FIAT LUX***







HOT DOG DAY FESTIVITIES, 1981

# HOT DOG DAY TURNS 50

David Jensen, Guest Writer

**HOT DOG DAY IS CELEBRATED EVERY SPRING IN THE VILLAGE OF ALFRED, NEW YORK. IT HAS BEEN CELEBRATED SINCE 1972, WHEN IT WAS FIRST CREATED AND ORGANIZED BY ALFRED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MARK O'MEARA AND ERIC "RICK" VAUGHN.**

Hot Dog Day has been a touchstone for students from both Alfred University and Alfred State College since the first festival was held, and will return in force after a two-year absence due to COVID-19.

The event got its start in 1972 when two Alfred University students, Mark O'Meara and Eric Vaughn, agreed that their fraternities should organize an event to benefit the community. From this came the idea of Hot Dog Day, and as planning continued and Alfred State College students became involved, the small Thursday event O'Meara and Vaughn had first thought up grew into a Saturday festival.

"The administration thought we were completely out of our minds," said O'Meara.

From the beginning, the event was meant to benefit area charities, but the students made sure to ask that any charity that wanted to receive a donation would help run the event.

"The basic premise was [that] you had to participate to get money," according to O'Meara.

After careful persuasion from O'Meara and Vaughn, the village board agreed to let them close Main Street for the event, which featured a hot dog and coke for 25 cents, bake sales, a

haunted house, and kissing booths. Only 2,500 hot dogs and buns were ordered, but double that number of wieners were sent, leaving the organizers scrambling for every piece of bread they could buy after they sold through the buns. O'Meara recalled that by the end of the day they were handing hot dogs out bare-fisted. In the end, \$4,200 was raised for local charities, and the day was widely considered a success.

As the event grew, so did its controversies. In 1975, the charitable aspects of the day were overshadowed by a drunken mob which attacked four village police officers and vandalized their car. Police attributed the violence to alcohol, the weather, and the 'obscene' rock music played by the festival's band. In the years since, the day has taken on two sides; the official event and the unofficial parties that go along with it. Things came to a head after the 2014 festival, which was especially chaotic and involved multiple serious injuries at night. In 2015, the University and State College began to take steps to limit overnight guests, provide overnight emergency services, and mitigate the damage caused by the day. These steps proved largely successful, and Hot Dog Day became a generally more safe

event from then on.

Due to COVID-19, Hot Dog Day has not been held in Alfred for two years (2020 featured online activities, and in 2021 both campuses held separate 'Not Dog Day' events on a smaller scale) so this year will mark both the 50th anniversary of the event's beginning and its return from a long absence.

For more information on this year's Hot Dog Day, head to the back of the newspaper.





# A SOUND FROM THE PAST

Sam Sage, Staff Writer

Anyone who has been in Alfred knows about the siren. People can relate it to *Silent Hill*, or other such apocalyptic aesthetics, as they try to catch up on sleep or study in lectures. The emergency alert siren in question is located atop the Heating Plant on Alfred University's campus.

In 1928, A.E. Crandall Hook & Ladder Company decided to change the alert from the 1898 bell to the siren. The purpose of the alert, both bell and siren, was to notify drivers and townsfolk that there was an emergency to look out for, and emergency vehicles that would be on the road.

There, according to Jean B. Lang's 1972 paper for the Alfred Historical Society, had been multiple sirens placed around Alfred University and Alfred Village after World War II. Eventually, in 1951, the present telephone system for requesting emergency services were put into place. These phones are answered by volunteers in their homes or businesses, to ensure 24-hour coverage.

While 40 years later, this set-up has changed, it is essentially the same as it was. According to Chief Douglas Clarke, a dispatch center in Belmont controls their siren, alongside all other sirens in Allegany County.

Rebecca Weaver Hamm, the president of A.E. Crandall, said, "We have cut the number of siren tests significantly in recent years—from a daily test to once on Saturdays at noon and on Sunday evenings at the start of our weekly practice. The rest of the time, three cycles of the siren mean there is an emergency alarm."

Weaver Hamm confessed that of the 332 fire calls in 2021, 303 of them were false alarms. However, despite the widespread wish to change the sirens, she said that the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) only recognizes the pager system, radio system, and the siren as legitimate means of dispatching an emergency. Cellphones and text messages, according to her, are not considered sufficient by the NFPA and the Insurance Services Office.

The past excess of the siren can be attributed in part to Alfred State College also utilizing the alert system. However, when Alfred State gained access to 24/7 use of the University Police, the



THE SIREN, LOCATED ATOP THE HEATING PLANT

need for the siren decreased significantly.

Now, when the alert is heard, according to a volunteer firefighter, "Three out of four times, the chimes are something on campus. A majority of the alarms that we hear are from automatic alarm systems on AU's campus."

These automatic systems are connected to the smoke and fire detectors in buildings. This means, if a student has a pot on the stove that they leave and it begins to smoke, it will trigger the system. It will also alert the system if a student pulls an alarm. Most of the time, the fires are non-existent. Many of them are due to smoke and can be fixed simply by paying attention to the stovetop while in use.

In response to the frequency of alerts, the volunteer continued, saying, "I would like Alfred University to take responsibility for the alarms on campus."

When asked about what each type of alert sound means, as some students can attest to hearing the siren wail for upwards of six cycles, Weaver Hamm confessed that she couldn't answer why there isn't more information about the sirens available.

"I did a brief explanation of the siren for the Village of Alfred's Instagram, but as I'm thinking about it the video was more than a

year ago. We have a public Facebook page and Instagram profile and are always interested in feedback from the community."

The problem of miscommunication isn't solely on the shoulders of A.E. Crandall, however, as there is no information given by Alfred University, to prospective or current students, about the sirens. While the university doesn't own the sirens, the village does, it still shares property space with the campus and affects leisure and lecture alike.

President Zupan, for instance, was unsure of what the siren sounds mean, and despite being on campus for six years, he has never spoken to Mayor Becky Prophet or A.E. Crandall about options until this year.

The blame is not fully on him, however, as Dr. Frederic Beaudry explains.

"The issue of the siren gets brought up occasionally, but I don't get the feeling that there's any real desire to do without it," he said. "Among other benefits, it alerts people that emergency vehicles may be active nearby. At the last call I went to, a car driven by students flew by the parked ambulance."

From a prosecutorial stance, Alfred seems to wish to keep the siren unchanged.

"We know the siren is very loud and we

are being compelled by several circumstances to take a look at whether, and how, to replace it," said Chief Douglas Clarke. "We may simply move the existing siren to a new location, or we may replace it with a siren that may not be as loud. We may purchase a siren with multiple sounds for different emergencies (like tornado warnings or a shooting incident), and may place the siren near our fire hall or perhaps somewhere else, but we've made no decisions yet."

According to a volunteer, the university plans to move the foundry class to the Heating Plant. Preparations have been made, as the generator for the siren is planned to be removed to create room for the materials needed for foundry.

This, in and of itself, creates problems that should be addressed.

It's clear that there is a divide in desire surrounding the siren, with volunteers and some faculty believing the siren is an integral part of the community and that it would be a detriment if it were dismantled. However, this begs the question, what does everyone else think?

(Continue reading on page 7)



ALFRED AMBULANCE

## ALFRED AMBULANCE

Rachel Fleischman, Guest Writer

Alfred University students could pay large bills if the local Alfred Ambulance volunteer service shuts down.

"Alfred Ambulance is at a critical shortage of volunteer members," says Captain Jane Cochran.

According to Lieutenant Evan Woolway, the lack of volunteers at Alfred Ambulance could lead to longer call response times and increased costs. Basic ambulance services can cost up to \$2,000. Advanced ambulance services can cost up to \$4,000 or more. Alfred Ambulance does

not charge for their services, currently, because they are completely volunteer-based.

Volunteer members leave the service due to age, the average age being 60 years and older, and are not being replaced by younger members. The service has two active student members graduating next year, according to Chief Douglas Clarke. Lack of membership has led to unfilled crews and delayed call responses.

The response time was twenty-five minutes on a recent call while an unfilled crew waited for an available driver, as stated by Lieutenant Woolaway. Alfred Ambulance covers the Town and Village of Alfred, and the outskirts of Ward and Hartsville.

(Continue reading on page 5)



# ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

Larissa Hageman, Staff Writer

Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Nicholas Schlegel, has published a new book (*German Popular Cinema and the Rialto Krimi Phenomenon: Dark Eyes of London*) examining German crime movies – known as *kriminalfilme* or *krimis* – following the publication in 2015 of his book on Spanish horror films. His previous publications include classical, contemporary, and global horror films, with notable publications in the Spanish, German, Japanese, and Mexican horror genres. His book takes a look into the Rialto Film phenomenon that took 1960’s German cinema by storm; examining its aesthetic, cultural and economic elements that translated into mass success across European box offices.

Schlegel’s newest book adopts a similar methodology to his last publication, *Sex, Sadism, Spain, and Cinema: The Spanish Horror Film*, although they are rooted in different cultures and traditions.

“Spaniards and Germans are not linked culturally in any way; what unites them is their problems with fascist regimes. However, after the defeat of Germany in the Second [World] War, Spain continued with [Francisco] Franco until the mid-1970s, providing them with different histories,” explained Schlegel.

The German word *krimi* is used to describe

a genre of cinematic and literary mystery-thrillers. The genre was created by British novelist Edgar Wallace, who served as a war correspondent during WWII, in addition to being a screenwriter and playwright.

**“The thing that makes the krimis very different and unique to Germany is that they are English stories that take place in Britain but are all filmed in Germany, with German casts and crews.”**

Rialto Film’s production of 32 *krimis*, between 1959 and 1973, was a breakthrough in European crime-cinema, later influencing Italy for their own version of *giallo* mystery-thrillers.

Wallace’s novels from the 1910s to 1920s lead to mass success after the Second World War in Germany, which Schlegel credits to their extensive literary history.

“Germany, very much like the U.K., has a long tradition of enjoying mysteries and mystery thrillers. Much in the same vein as Arthur

Conan-Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes, [the Germans] grabbed onto Edgar Wallace’s work because it was written in a similar style, but with much greater output,” said Schlegel.

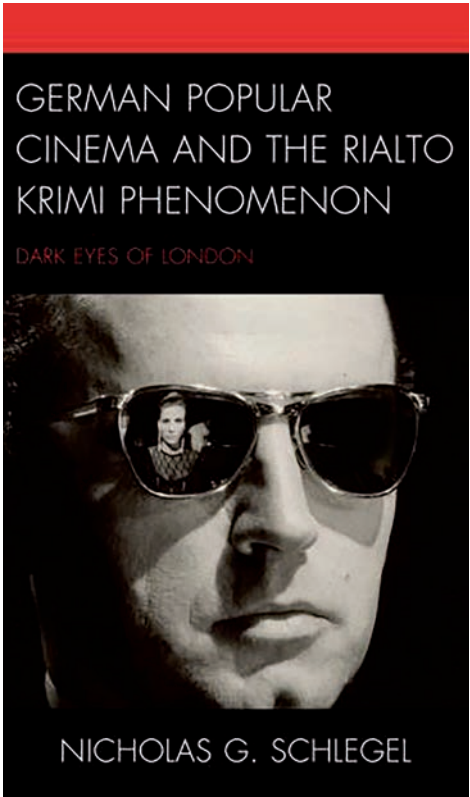
Wallace’s common themes of violence, blackmail, sexuality, and mystery provided a British twist in German cinema, and especially resonated with the people of a grave post-war era.

“The thing that makes the *krimis* very different and unique to Germany is that they are English stories that take place in Britain but are all filmed in Germany, with German casts and crews,” he explained.

As for what led to *krimis* demise, Schlegel believes there is no simple answer.

“Its time had come, and those types of films had a very hard time competing internationally when Hollywood started putting out the big blockbusters of the 1970s.”

Some of Wallace’s most popular novels that were made into film include *The Man Who Bought London* (1916), *The Green Terror* (1919), *The Crimson Circle* (1922), and *Valley of Ghosts* (1928). Although much of Wallace’s work has been phased out by the current European film markets, his inspiration continues to live on, leaving a prolific impact on German horror cinema.



SCHLEGEL AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE



THE ALFRED BOX OF BOOKS LIBRARY

# THE CORNERSTONE OF THE VILLAGE

Sam Sage, Staff Writer

The Alfred Box of Books Library has been a part of the Alfred village for such a grand part of the village’s history, and according to the current library director, Melanie Miller, they want nothing more than to repay the kindness of their patrons and to continue enriching the community.

However, the library didn’t always look like the homely building that it is today.

“The historic portion of the building, the side that faces West University Street, was originally a bookstore operated by Hazel Humphreys. She gifted it to the University,” said Melanie Miller. “In 1985, an addition was added to that additional structure, and the library moved from Greene Hall to its present location to better serve the community.”

While the expansion in 1985 allowed for the library to grow its collection a little more, Box of Books is quickly finding that its, “definitely outgrowing the footprint of the current building.”

Melanie lamented that the space limits their collection size, and that they can’t hold all of the items they might like to. Similarly, they want

to expand the space to include amenities such as private meeting areas, family bathrooms, a dedicated teen space, and spaces for computer access and quiet working.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted this issue of space, with staff having to limit the work they could do, as well as limiting how many people were allowed in the building. One of the largest losses that they’ve been fighting to bring back is their offered programs.

“Prior to the pandemic, we were offering many programs for children, teens, and adults year-round. And we’re slowly moving back to that as we emerge from the pandemic, but it’s been difficult.”

Box of Books recently received an American Rescue Plan Humanities grant from the American Library Association, which allows them to expand their program offerings. They’re also partnering with the libraries at Alfred University and Alfred State to offer more community-wide programming. One of the hopes for Melanie is to bring back in-person story-time for children.

(Continue reading on page 7)



# “THINK ABOUT CHANGE”

## SPOTLIGHTING DR. MARLIN MILLER, JR.

Sam Sage, Staff Writer

Dr. Marlin Miller, Jr. is well-known to students and faculty, even if they don't know him personally. His fundings and donations as a member of the Board of Trustees has planted enough seeds on this campus to show a fruitful legacy. From Miller Performing Arts Center to the Ceramic Arts Museum, to the Link, Dr. Miller has established himself as a significant benefactor toward Alfred University.

Miller is celebrating his upcoming 90th birthday, as well as expecting a Life Trustee transition in May. Since 1972, he has donated around \$75 million to Alfred University and its growth in the changing climate. His advice towards embracing change has been a constant in his life as a speaker for students, and it foretells of a hope for a better Alfred University as more advocacy for change around campus spreads.

Interviewer: Sam Sage, Class of 2024

Interviewee: Dr. Marlin Miller, Jr. Class of 1954, Trustee

**So, what prompted you to become such a massive benefactor for Alfred University?**

Well, I had a great experience here as a student. I was very involved in lots of activities,

actually was president of Student Senate. So, you know, all those things in Alfred were very meaningful to me, and helped me with my career actually, in a lot of ways. So, when I was asked to become a trustee, I was a little surprised by it. But someone thought I could be helpful. When I joined the board of trustees, I had the opportunity to do something. This has been an ongoing thing for the past, well it'll be 50 years this year. If I had the opportunity to help, then that's what I tried to do. That's sort of a long-winded answer. [Laughs]

**No, it's alright. Thank you so much. What caused you to focus a lot on the arts and performing arts for funding?**

Okay. Well, my first wife, who unfortunately passed away almost 40 years ago now, was an art student there. So, after we were married, we had a lot of shared interests. One of these was ceramics, and we were always interested in all of the arts wherever we went. Bob Turner, who was one of the renown Alfred ceramicists, had this idea of a museum there. So, that's what prompted that. But as far as performing arts are concerned, when I went to school there, all the performing arts were at Alumni Hall. It was actually an auditorium, before, it wasn't an office building. Behind Howell Hall, there was a building where the band would practice

and where they had a lot of the stage stuff. One of the major needs that they had, which was about 40 years ago or so, was that they needed a performing arts building. There wasn't enough money to build both a proscenium and the building, at first. The proscenium was built about ten years later, which finished the project of having a full-blown performing arts opportunity there.

We need some more faculty in theater in order to get it going like it used to. Hopefully that'll take place in the next year or so.

**I hope so too. So, obviously Alfred has changed a lot since you graduated. Do you have any stories from your time as a student, or even commentary about how Alfred has changed since the 50s?**

Well, you're absolutely right. It has changed dramatically in the 50 years that I've been a trustee. But, you know, everything changes. That's a fear, right? So, you sort of have to be like, "Okay, what's happening in the environment and how do you adjust to that?" And that's what the university has had to do for many years. That's one of the things you gain a better perspective on, after you've gotten a little bit older, and you begin to understand. [Laughs]

I think some of the biggest changes from Alfred are, well, when I was there, one of the biggest groups of students were ceramic engineers. Ceramic engineering, from a manufacturing standpoint, has changed dramatically. The need for ceramic engineers has almost evaporated, to a large extent. We also used to have a nursing school here, but that got completely cropped. These are kind of the changes that happen as the environment changes, and the school has to adjust to it. So, yeah, there has been a lot of change. And I'm sure it will continue to change.

**Wow, that's incredible. It's crazy to see how much the campus has changed in such a short period of time.**

The campus has changed dramatically, of course. We [Miller and then-president Coll]

drove to Minneapolis and got funds to build the business school. There weren't a lot of dormitories at that time either. Bartlett and the Brick were the primary dormitories, because a lot of people leave their sophomore years to join fraternities or sororities. So, most of the dormitories were built from 1960 to the current day.

**I just have one question left for you. So, you've lived a long life, and you've seen a lot of stuff, and you know what you're talking about [laughs], do you have any advice for students or even faculty, about how to move forward in the world or just general advice?**

[Laughs] I would say, you know, it's important to have a realization that things are going to change. That's the nature of society, you know. New things are coming all the time, and things change. Sometimes it's hard for people to accept, and you know, it's important to be able to think about change. Certainly, there are professors here that aren't teaching the same way, or even teaching the same subject matter as they were 20 years ago or so.

Most students need to think in terms of, "Oh, I'm excited about something I want to do right now. And there's a great possibility in my life that I will have three or five or six jobs or vocations or activities that I may be involved in." And you know, that's okay. For some people, change is very welcome.

I sure had my turn at activities in my career. I think that can be very healthy, and I mean, I've enjoyed the change. And so, I think it's very important to become passionate on something you want to do and have an understanding that the world is going to change and there will be new demands and areas of interest. I think it's expecting and adapting to change that are two of the most important things and to not be discouraged by it.

**Thank you for your time. Have a great day, Dr. Miller.**

Thank you, you as well.

### ALFRED AMBULANCE

(Continued from page 1)

Students made up two thirds of the area's medical calls in 2021, with Alfred Ambulance responding to 280 calls in total, according to Captain Cochran. The local universities provide a yearly donation to Alfred Ambulance so students can benefit from the free service, reports Chief Clarke.

A private for-profit company will need to provide ambulance services for the area if local Alfred Ambulance does not get more volunteers. Medical Transport Services Inc. (MTS) is a for-profit company that covers all of Allegany County.

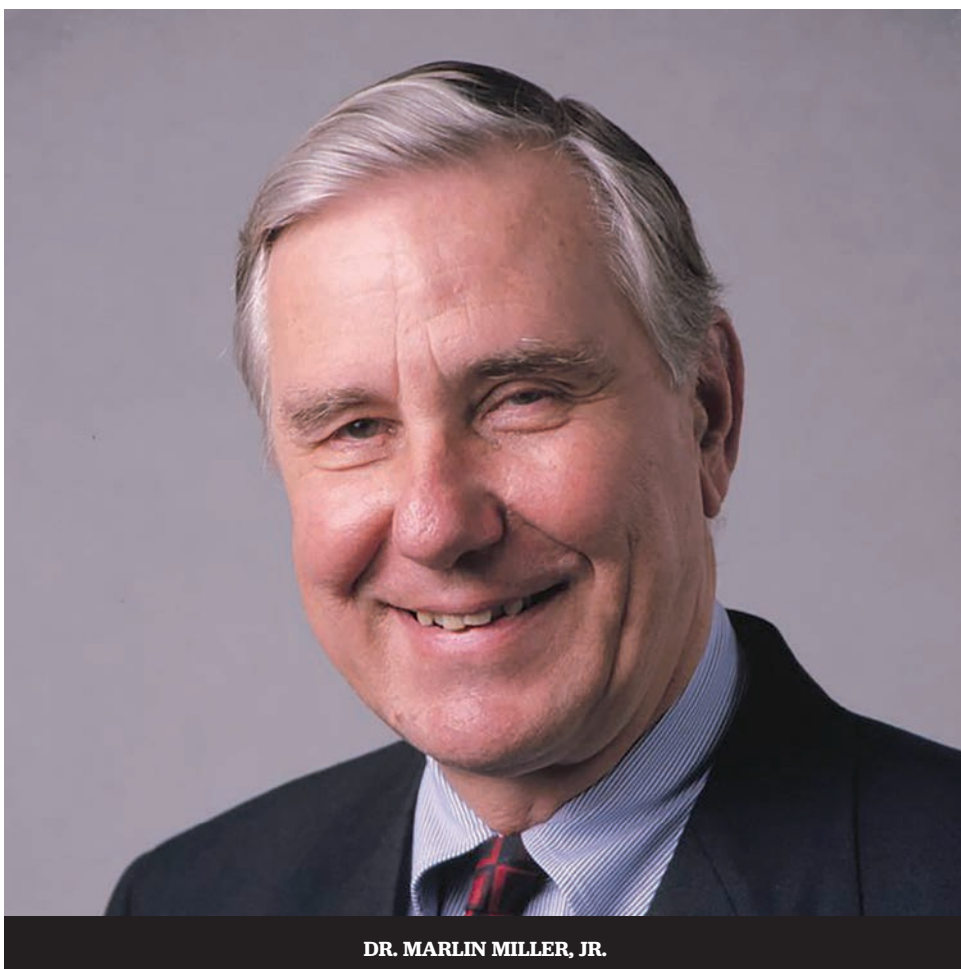
MTS provides transport of patients to Buffalo which can lead to trucks and staff being unavailable for several hours, according to Captain Cochran. If MTS adds the local area to their services, MTS resources will be stretched further and will lead to longer response times for the community, Lieutenant Woolaway claims.

Students are required to have health insurance, but not all insurance extends to this area. These students will pay high rates out-of-pocket. Insured students could still have to pay a copay if MTS takes over, maintains Captain Cochran.

Chief Clarke explains that student volunteers have kept Alfred Ambulance viable as a free service for years. No prior experience is required to join, and training opportunities are completely free of charge. Membership with Alfred Ambulance will not interfere with classes, according to Captain Cochran.

"Joining has been such a life changing experience and I recommend joining to anyone," says Lieutenant Woolaway.

To volunteer, students can email Vice President Kevin Gagne at [alfredfireems@gmail.com](mailto:alfredfireems@gmail.com). Students can also go to the local fire hall while practices are held on Sunday evenings from 7pm-9pm.



DR. MARLIN MILLER, JR.





A.E. CRANDALL HOOK &amp; LADDER VOLUNTEERS

## COMMUNITY'S PASSION FOR PROTECTION

Sam Sage, Staff Writer

A.E. Crandall Hook & Ladder Company was established in 1887, following Alfred Village's need for a more concrete fire and emergency department. A.E. Crandall, for whom the Hook & Ladder Co. was named after, was a large financial contributor to the company in its early stages.

The fire hall that originally housed Hook & Ladder, in 1890, is now known as the county clerk building. In 1972, the fire hall, that most people know as the Hook & Ladder headquarters, was built. Both structures were completed, mainly, through volunteer labor.

The volunteering spirit is what drives Hook & Ladder, even into 2022. The department is made up of volunteers, with many being notable people from Alfred University. Professors like Zachary Hamm, Rebecca Weaver Hamm, Frederic Beaudry, Angus Powers, and Danielle and Kevin Gagne are just a few of those who make up the fire and EMS force here in Alfred.

"A.E. Crandall Hook & Ladder is dependent upon volunteers, and in order for us to continue to serve the community we need more volunteers to serve as firefighters and in EMS,"

said A.E. Crandall President Rebecca Weaver Hamm. "We welcome students, and we hope that the skills our student members and mutual aid members learn are helpful to them when they graduate and move to other communities."

Weaver Hamm also shared a desire for full-time residents of, and commuters to, Alfred to possibly join the company. She believes that volunteerism is declining across America, as people work longer hours and maintain more jobs than in past generations.

Hook & Ladder, like all volunteer fire departments in New York, provide ambulance services without any charge to individuals or insurance. They run mainly on donations from the municipalities they serve, such as Alfred University and Alfred State, the Alfred-Alfred Station Community Chest, and other individual donors.

Hook & Ladder strives to support the community in Alfred Village and Station. They are well known for having fire crews on standby and ensuring that there is always an ambulance for athletic events, Honors Convocation, and other special events.

"We are so grateful for our community's support. We really can make someone's day go much, much better, and it's rewarding service," said Weaver Hamm.

## WHY AMERICANS SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT GAS PRICES

Mackenzie Jordan, Guest Writer

As of Friday, March 11th, at least 6.5 million Ukrainians have been displaced. 2.5 million, which is approximately 5% of the Ukrainian population, have fled the country. The death toll in Ukraine is unknown, but it has been estimated that almost 2,000 lives have been lost. In America, we cannot compare to the tremendous pain and suffering that Ukrainians are facing right now, yet as a nation, we are complaining about gas prices.

In New York, the average gas price is \$4.49. California has gas prices at \$5.74. Arkansas has the cheapest in the nation, ranging around \$3.82. Let us look at gas prices internationally. In the Netherlands, gas is \$6.84. Italy is \$5.96. The United Kingdom is \$5.74. Compared to some of these prices, America is doing decently well. These European countries are doing more for refugees than America is, as well.

On social media, gas debates have skyrocketed and there appears to be no middle ground. In both political parties, fingers are being pointed at President Biden for raising the gas prices. In both political parties, individuals are reminding social media users why Americans should be grateful for our only true "complaint" at this time being gas prices, such as having a place to go home to, food to eat, being surrounded by loved ones, continuing education, and living in peace.

The split is more apparent than ever during a crucial time in history; a history which is barely affecting the nation other than debates on gas and what our country should do to help Ukraine, or if we even should at all.

Some of these arguments stated above, or rebuttals to some claims, deserve to be explained for individuals who cannot grasp the concept of war and who really controls gas prices.

To explain how the pricing of gasoline works, Investopedia breaks it down: gasoline prices are determined by supply and demand. Gasoline prices cover the cost of both acquiring and redefining crude oil, in addition to marketing and distribution of gasoline. Federal tax and state tax is a major part of gas prices: federal fees being around 18.4 cents per gallon and state taxes making up approximately 16% of gas prices in a particular state. Consumers are slow to respond to prices in gasoline costs, hence the reasoning behind why all people notice rapid changes in gas prices.

Gas is a global market. It has nothing to do with whichever politician is in control of a nation. Presidents in America have nothing to do with gas prices. The rebuttal that could be for this argument is Biden's sanctions on gas in Russia. Sanctions placed on Russia was an international move. The United States is a longtime member, and a powerful member at that with the ability to veto or approve laws, in the United Nations. The UN came to a conclusive decision to place sanctions on Russia after the invasion of Ukraine. The sanctions affect Russia far more than American gas prices. To tie in the previous argument of how gas is a global market, there is a major war and invasion happening in Ukraine. Ukraine and Russia both are requiring more gas for their militaries, hence the rise in gas prices globally. Biden's sanctions do not affect gas prices.



GAS PRICES ARE RISING INTERNATIONALLY

Rising gas prices are not the easiest to deal with in a demanding country, but it is bearable compared to the tragedy behind Russia's invasion. Americans need to stop complaining and wondering how high gas prices are going to get. That should not be a national focus. The national focus should be protecting democracy, which is both a prominent national promise and foundation on which the United States was built upon.

Ukraine has a real chance at losing the democracy which they have attained after the fall of the Soviet Union. As a superpower in the modern world, it is the responsibility of our nation to protect democracy. We cannot do that if we are worried about gas prices and blaming the President. Even if the United States decides to not aid even further in the invasion and war,

it is important to remember that we are not facing tragedy and living in fear currently.

Americans can go home after a long day of work. Americans can still go on vacation. Americans can continue pursuing their education, whether that is grades K-12 or at university level. Americans can keep working. Americans do not have to worry about losing their family to a massive air strike. Americans have to wake up to the sound of their iPhone alarm, not air raid bombs ringing across their city.

Americans are free. Other countries, and especially Ukraine, do not have the luxury of freedom and, unfortunately, must fight to keep it.



## A SOUND FROM THE PAST

(Continued from page 1)

The Alfred emergency alert siren has been a part of the collective student memory since 1928. However, according to Zupan, there has been little-to-none in the way of complaint and request surrounding the siren.

This may be true in the context of formal sanctions against the siren, but it is false when regarding the thoughts and feelings of many on Alfred University's campus—including President Zupan, himself.

"Sirens have come up. Two students mentioned it at a recent town hall and then there was another occasion, where we had a small group gathering with first years," said Zupan. "Until those two students mentioned it, nobody ever brought it up before."

Despite there being allegedly little complaint of the siren, Zupan is of the mindset that the siren should be dismantled, that a switch to solely smartphones and pagers would be more beneficial for the college communities in Alfred.

"[When the siren goes off] we literally stop the conversation. I don't know if you've had that experience, where you just can't hear people," he said. "I've been here six years, and it seems like such an obvious thing. There may be a good reason why we can't switch. We don't own the siren; the village owns it."

The opposition of the siren varies, with some finding it distracting or annoying, while others find it extremely triggering and distressing.

The latter feeling is likely to become a problem as, Zupan states, "We have two students who we think will be joining us from Ukraine. So just imagine what kind of memories that will conjure up for what they've had to live through."

While Jonathan Kent, Vice President of Enrollment Management, says that it is a long shot that the Ukrainian students will arrive in fall, as they have yet to complete admissions and SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information Services), he is also aware that the siren could be a trigger. It should be noted that Kent has not debriefed the Ukrainian students that there is a siren on campus because they, "have not committed to the university yet."

The sound of air raid sirens is not rare in Ukraine, now, as even their president Volodymyr Zelenskyy played a twenty-second recording of the siren during an address to the German people, saying, "That was twenty seconds. We hear this for hours, days, weeks."

The post-traumatic stress response toward the siren is a growing concern around campus, as more students come to the campus feeling panicked and unsure of how to respond to it.

The Wellness Center, under the direction of Allsun Ozyseil, and the department of Student Wellbeing under Tamara Kenney, were both made aware of the anxiety.

"I don't think, I have to be honest, it ever crossed my mind. I live right across the street, and I've never worked at a college or university where there was a siren so loud, so close to the campus." Ozyseil said, adding that she's worked with Syrian refugees in the past. "I do understand how much the war trauma affects students, and I think a big goal of the Wellness Center is to be as accessible as possible for all students."

Many faculty find the siren more ambiance and less nuisance, especially for those who have lived and/or worked in Alfred for an extended

period.

The Dean of Student Wellbeing, Tamara Kenney, noted that the changing of the sound could be an interesting conversation to have but stood by her opinion that the siren should not be gotten rid of, "I think we're blessed to have a volunteer service. I personally don't think it's a great idea to get rid of it, because we don't have the capacity here to have a professional ambulance crew that sits on standby. [The siren] certainly has its purpose."

There is hope for the Ukrainian students, should they arrive to campus, however.

Informing Alfred University students about the possibility of Ukrainian students joining the campus, many balked at the idea that the newcomers would have to contend with the siren.

"Anything but an air raid siren noise," a first year said. "At least turn it off or change it for when the Ukrainian students show up."

From the faculty and staff side of it, Allsun Ozyseil explained how Dillon Smith and Emma Wolf worked together to find how the Wellness Center can better serve veterans and their families in collaboration with Veterans Affairs.

"I was part of this discussion of what would be most helpful," they said. "What we landed on was actually endorsed by the Veterans Association and that is RTM. Reconsolidation of Traumatic Memories."

RTM is a brief, yet effective, intervention with trauma. It can be used for various origins of PTSD, and the Wellness Center counselors are in the process of being trained in it. Ozyseil predicts it should be available as a resource in the fall of 2022.

"I think part of what I came in here offering is that I do believe if you can really target, for lack of a better word, the students on the fringes, minorities, all of that, then everybody is gonna be able to access it. I can see the population [of Ukrainian students] being a part of that."

Though, while the University's helpful invitation to Ukraine creates its own issues, it would be recommended that they turn their eyes inward—to the existent community.

As there is little information about the siren for prospective students, many arrive to the campus only to be shaken by the sound at odd hours of the day. The information they do get, either through rumor or theory, gives no

should they plan to return to those parts of the country.

Contrastingly, students may suffer from attribution trauma. It's common for small towns in the Northeastern United States to have these sirens, and it's not uncommon for that sound to be attributed to adverse experiences in a student's life.

As one freshman puts it, "I was living in a domestic abuse situation, and there was a siren outside just like this one. Every time it goes off, it's like I'm right back there."

While students can get help from the Wellness Center, if they are able to reach out, there is no true treatment for the accepted discomfort. Many first-year students have already developed the cynicism toward the siren that seniors have learned to balance with apathetic humor.

"Yeah, I love it in a Stockholm Syndrome kind of way," laughed a senior. "Every time it goes off, I think, 'good old Alfred.'"

Zupan shares in this apathetic humor, as he expressed the outdated nature of the siren is like a fax machine, "There's something to be said about quaintness. There are other ways to be quaint."

The consensus, it seems, of the students and faculty that have reached out and spoken out, is that the siren is a sound from the past, and that it may be time to modernize.

A worthy discussion to have sooner, rather than later, is how to better serve the community via the siren. There will not be a simple answer; not one that can be agreed upon and enacted within a few weeks. As Alfred University and Alfred State College grow in their popularity and population, there will be a greater need for an alternative way to alert the public of emergencies.

Chief Clarke has stated that the fire department plans on sharing more information with the universities and village via social media, webpages, and general communication. He also extends a wish that, "We hope Alfred University will make similar arrangements [to having full-time on-duty campus patrol] in the near future, and we are in conversation with appropriate people, toward that end."

The call for removing or quieting the siren can only be fully addressed if Alfred University plans to meet the needs put forth by A.E. Crandall

## The call for removing or quieting the siren can only be fully addressed if Alfred University plans to meet the needs put forth by A.E. Crandall Hook & Ladder Company.

comfort and only perpetuates the growth of accepted discomfort that tends to color much of a student's years on campus.

"The worst part about it going off is that you get immune to it. I used to live down South, and when a siren like that went off it meant that a tornado was touching down or about to touch down in your area. That's enough to make everyone unnerved. But now, I'm immune to it. So, if I have to live South again then," a senior said, finishing the sentence with a shrug.

Students coming from parts of the country where these sirens are used for tornados, or even tsunamis, have to recalibrate their mindset to realize there is no direct threat. However, as that senior highlighted, that is its own issue

Hook & Ladder Company. More fire safety training for students, funding and improvement of the around-the-clock capabilities of Public Safety, and encouragement of volunteering for the fire department are just the beginning of what President Zupan and A.E. Crandall must discuss. All final decisions regarding the siren, however, are fundamentally in the hands of the Company, as Chief Clarke made explicitly clear.

In the end, there are many ways for this conversation to get started and many ways for it to die out, but to stall it while the siren keeps blaring does little to help overall.

## THE CORNERSTONE OF THE VILLAGE

(Continued from page 4)

The summer reading program is one of their main focuses, as the past few years have found poor attendance due to COVID. Melanie hopes that they can have an in-person kick-off event to boost awareness and attendance of this program.

When asked what their main goal for these events are, Melanie said, "We have several goals when it comes to programs, and sometimes it's program dependent. We do it for community outreach and for providing educational, cultural, and recreational programming for all ages."

Summer reading programs, for example, are to help keep students at their current reading progress as school lets out in May until it comes back into session in September. The story-time program is to encourage early literacy activities for children ages 0-5, allowing parents to learn and participate in activities that will help child development.

"It also gives the kids and parents a time to socialize and play," said Melanie.

However, the Box of Books isn't just for pre-K and school children or adults with down-time, it's also a great resource for university students.

"We love when students stop by! Please stop by! We know that you might not have all the time to read for pleasure, but we do have tons more to offer, and having a library card here means access to a ton more materials and services. And like I said, we do have some exciting collaborations coming up with Alfred University's libraries and Alfred State's library, and I love that all four of Alfred's libraries are working together to serve this amazing community."

Box of Books also wants to let work-study eligible students know that they encourage students to reach out and work for them. They're always looking for new student workers, according to Melanie, and the main qualification is that they must have great customer service skills.

If working or studying isn't solely what patrons want to use the Box of Books Library for, Melanie also highlighted some upcoming events. They'll be starting a Kids Classics Books Club in April, a monthly meeting with activities for parents and kids to read and engage with together. Also in April, they will be hosting a Birds of Prey program in collaboration with the Almond library. Melanie also was excited to mention that every month, they host a True Crime Book Club. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 5pm, and participants receive a free copy of the book they're reading for the club.

The Alfred Box of Books Library has incredible respect and love for the Alfred community. They enjoy participating in any community activity they can, when they're not hosting their own.

You can find more information about the Alfred Box of Books Library at [www.alfredboxofbookslibrary.org](http://www.alfredboxofbookslibrary.org).



# ***SEXY DOGS***



Lucy



Otis



Mocha



Tracy



Leo





# OF ALFRED



Abby



Jupi



Baci





# REMEMBERING ALFRED

MY MOM, MAURA LILLEY, AND HER COLLEGE ROOMMATE, JACKIE DOSTORIAN, WERE BOTH ART MAJORS AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY FROM '85 - '89. I RECENTLY INTERVIEWED THEM ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES HERE AT AU.

Piper Lilley, Staff Photographer

## What is your favorite college memory? Or do you have any fun stories to tell?

Maura: I have so many great memories. Halloween parties at Davis Gym (now the Ceramic Art Museum), working at Ade dining hall, riding a rolling office chair down the halls of Reimer (now Moskowitz), living on the sun porch at Sigma, playing pool at ZBT, trying to sneak Jackie into Alex's, being a really bad DJ on WALF radio... I could go on and on. The one thing they all have in common is amazing friends.

Jackie: A lot of great memories come from dorm life – hanging out in each other's rooms, getting ready for class or to go out at night, watching Days of Our Lives in the TV room and working -- or trying to work. I remember working on art projects, spread out on the floor of the common room; laughing, working hard and feeling stressed because of the amount of work we still had left to do by 9:00 AM the next morning. Freshman year we worked on “marble madness”, an art project involving a marble and one minute, and a crazy color wheel project that involved painting 100s of small squares. Honestly, I am sitting here today wondering how I would have done it, if we hadn't done it together.

I have fun memories of dancing to A-ha's “Take on Me” at Kappa, to “Louie, Louie” at Delta and to an “American Pie – inspired group dance....” A long long time ago, I can still remember how that music used to make me smile.

I remember meeting up at Ade Dining Hall to eat and then work our shifts. It was busy but fun and at times, a little crazy!

I also have good memories of taking breaks from work to visit friends in their classrooms or studio spaces in Harder Hall; to talk and see what they were working on.

## Did you guys have foundations or something similar? What was that like?

Maura: Yes, we did! Freshman Foundation was every morning, five days a week. There must have been 100 of us in the foundation space in Harder Hall. I personally had a love hate relationship with foundations. We were exposed to every kind of art you can think of... some I loved, like painting, pinhole camera photography, and drawing groups. Other mediums like sculpture and performance art, were not my thing. One of my favorite projects was the giant still life. I still have most of my work from freshman year.

Jackie: We did have Freshmen Foundation, Monday through Friday, 9:00 – 12:00 pm. Freshman Foundation was such a new experience. We were new to college, and it was our first college art class. It was very different and pretty intense. The class format was new to me (we were given an assignment and had a quick one-two day turn-around) and the art assignments were very different from anything

I had previously experienced. We also had class-wide critiques, another new experience for me. It was a challenging class. In the beginning, I remember not understanding a lot of the concepts discussed during critiques (“What are they talking about!?!”). Second semester I remember feeling, a bit more often, that I was able to complete assignments more successfully, using my own unique voice or style.

## What was the art department like back then?

Maura: All our classes, including art history, were in Harder Hall or Binns Merrill. The Scholes Library was also there.

Jackie: There were large studio spaces for all the major mediums including sculpture, glass, painting, photography, design, printmaking, and media.

The first year we enrolled in Freshman Foundation and drawing classes. We also took art history. Sophomore year we could choose two art classes each semester and art history. I chose painting, glass, clay, and photography. Junior year we settled on one medium as our primary focus area (though could still try another medium) and Senior year we continued in our focus area and prepared for our Senior Show.

## What did you all have access to (medium, etc.)?

Maura: I was a design major. The desktop computer was not yet a thing. We used a typesetting machine/computer called a Linotype. We would enter text and keystroke codes that designated size, font, line break, etc. It would then print everything onto a roll of photosensitive paper that had to be developed in a dark room. Then we would cut sheets or individual letters, run them

through a waxer, and then create a layout. You had to be a good planner because it was a pain to redo anything!

Jackie: We had access to courses in painting, printmaking, design, sculpture (metal, clay, mixed media), glass, and media/video. I focused my time and efforts on painting and drawing, though I also took a printmaking class Junior year.

## What were your favorite classes/professors?

Maura: I think my favorite class was figure drawing. We had a student model named “Doc”. He would bring a sword to class and fly around the room doing the most theatrical poses.

Jackie: Glass was fascinating and different, and I liked the physical aspect of it. I also liked a lot of my electives (history, religion, psychology). My favorite art classes ended up being drawing and painting. One of my Senior Advisors was Ted Morgan, who I really liked working with, though I liked working with, and learned a lot from, all my professors.



JACKIE (LEFT) AND MAURA (RIGHT) ON LOWER PINE HILL, CA. 1985-6

## What kind of clubs were available back then? Were you apart of any?

Maura: I was a Sigma Chi Nu sister. Greek life was the center of social activities on campus. Even if you didn't belong to a fraternity or sorority, you probably spent your weekends at one! The frats would advertise their parties by hanging huge banners in the dining halls. I wish I had taken a few pictures of them because they were always so creative. I played intramural softball and women's rugby and I had a radio show with my friend Bridget on WALF!

Jackie: I'm sure there were a lot of clubs. I didn't join any formal clubs in college, for no particular reason except that I didn't think to. I did “play” Rugby, though I mostly avoided any field interactions!

## Is seeing AU again weird or strange?

Maura: I love going back to Alfred. The campus and town have changed a bit but it's mostly familiar. It still has that great community feel. Jackie: It only felt odd the first time I visited Alfred, shortly after graduating. I went there for a specific reason (I can't remember why now) and did not really see or know anyone – so it was weird.

What made Alfred special is the people I shared my experiences with. When I visit AU now, with friends, it's fun to reconnect, visit old and new spaces, and share new experiences in the place that brought us together.

## How do you think your experiences in AU compare to the current experience?

Maura: There was always a great sense of community anywhere you went in Alfred. From Alex's and The Jet, to the dining halls and the studios... you were surrounded by friends. That's still important to me today. I'm lucky

to live in a community much like Alfred where I'm supported by great people.

Jackie: I imagine there is a lot of overlap in how students experience AU now, as they did in the mid-80s. The classes, dorm life, daily schedule, and extra curricular activities are most likely similar.

## What advice do you have for art students?

Maura: Try everything! Where else will you have the opportunity to blow glass or have access to an array of kilns!

Jackie: Based on my own steep freshman/sophomore year learning curve I would say, keep working and trying and, though it might not make sense now, chances are it will. That's just my advice because during Freshman Foundation and, off and on sophomore year, I couldn't fully understand the concepts professors were sharing and then, regardless of my comprehension level, could not integrate their ideas and concepts into how I created art. This changed a bit the latter half of freshman year when I felt more successful (some of the time).

I would say, try to stay open to different possibilities (techniques, processes, mediums). They will inform your work.

Talk about your art – your processes, your efforts, your struggles and your successes, with your professors and with your classmates. Your art is an expression of who you are and it's important to be able to articulate your processes and techniques. I was not good at this and realized later I could have learned more about my creative process and about making art in general had I focused on this more. I would probably ask more questions now too.

I would also say, the more you give of yourself to a project, to a class, really to anything, the more you will receive from it. That probably seems obvious, but I learned that on a deeper level at AU.

I wasn't always aware of how much I learned at AU, until I graduated and reflected back on all the experiences I had there.



# A HARD ROAD TO HOPE: AN APOLOGY

“Dear Someone Hopeful,”

We at Alfred University Libraries read of your battle against the roadblocks in changing to your chosen name in the Alfred University systems in, “A Hard Road to Hope” from the February 27, 2022 issue of Fiat Lux. We learned that Alfred University Libraries are part of those roadblocks that have harmed you, and we want to apologize for that. We acknowledge the harm caused by using your deadname to check out library materials, a failure that should have been prevented through stronger policies and better checkout options. Thank you for sharing your experience; by doing so you are giving us the opportunity to prevent repeating our mistakes. We are working to ensure that technological and procedural measures are in place to prevent this situation in the future.

Alfred University Libraries aims to be an inclusive, affirming and welcoming space. We are working towards an automated solution where chosen name changes approved through the University chosen name process are automatically imported into our library systems once they are in Banner. Recognizing that these types of solutions take time, we have taken the following immediate actions to ensure that chosen names are accurate in our library systems. These steps seek to address previous harm caused and prevent future harm:

- **We have coordinated with AU registrar’s office to update all chosen name changes from the past academic year in our library system**

- **We have coordinated with AU registrar’s office to update all chosen name changes from the past academic year in our interlibrary loan system**
- **We are reviewing how library staff search for patron accounts when completing checkouts at the service desks and create a workflow that avoids staff identifying patrons by their deadnames**
- **We will create signage at our front desks to communicate the various identifiers that can be used to look up a patron account (email address, AU ID card, A00 ID number)**

Alfred University Libraries seeks solutions that emphasize internal action and library responsibility for making chosen name changes within our library systems that do not force library patrons to make name change requests to multiple systems or departments.

Alfred University Libraries can also correct our records to your chosen name independent of Alfred University’s ‘Chosen Name Process.’ If you are awaiting University approval of a chosen name change, if you made a name change prior to the implementation of the Alfred University chosen name process, or if your name is incorrect for any reason, this can be immediately addressed within library systems. Options for correcting your name directly with the libraries include, emailing libraries@alfred.edu, calling the Director of Libraries at 607-871-2950, or in-person at either Herrick or Scholes front desks.

Signed,  
Alfred University Libraries

# TRUSTEES ARE PLANNING ON FULL STEAM AHEAD, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STUDENTS?

Sam Sage, Staff Writer

There has been a recent uptick in donations from the board of trustees, all with the same hope of support: they want to make Alfred University better.

There are plans in the conceptual stage to add a restroom to the Link, as well as adding more USB ports to that space. However, main items on their list that they would like student input on are how to make Powell Campus Center and outdoor spaces more vibrant, accessible, welcoming, and convenient.

One of their bigger projects, which President Zupan was quite gleeful to share, was that they are raising money to break ground on Jericho Hill. The plan is to add an outdoor track and a second practice field, with the hopes of encouraging more opportunities for track and field, women’s field hockey, women’s rugby, and men’s volleyball. This would allow for more practices that wouldn’t solely be at night on Merrill Field, according to Zupan.

The larger problem with a lot of these trustee-funded projects, though, is that there is a distinct lack of student and faculty involvement

and support.

Interviews with various students, many of which were athletes, brings up an interesting pattern: no one is sold on having Jericho Hill as a second option for athletics.

Faculty have mentioned that there would be more money and planning needed to go into this project, including but not limited to reliable transport from Alfred University to Jericho Hill and communication between athletic training and the athletes that would be using the Jericho Hill site. There has been a history of club sports not getting access to insurance and athletic training, and if Jericho Hill opens more options for student sports, that will be an issue that must be addressed.

Overwhelmingly, many students wish that their voices could be heard when trustees and the president make decisions regarding the school, and so it should be encouraged that they speak out and reach out.

No beneficial change can happen when the student and faculty bodies are either not listened to, or never speak up in the first place.

# ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISE REVIEW

Mackenzie Jordan, Guest Writer

Traveling is a growing desire for many people, especially in this less restricted, “post” Coronavirus world. International travel restrictions severely impacted economies that rely heavily on tourism income, and businesses that got most income from tourists. Cruise lines are in both categories, the tourists on these ships contribute to countries with major ports, and tourists make up most of the income that cruise conglomerates make.

As a college student and travel lover, I wanted to explore a foreign country as cheaply as possible during my spring break. My friend, who accompanied me, had been on multiple cruises with the Carnival cruise line prior to our trip. Initially, we had wanted to book a cruise with Carnival, as she has a membership with the company, but we were unable to because nobody in our party of two was at least 25 years of age. Our next option was Royal Caribbean.

Royal Caribbean allowed us to be travelers only because I reached the minimum age of 21 to travel without any accompaniment by an older adult, and my friend was able to come along, but only if I took responsibility for her. By responsibility, I mean checking her in, making sure she does not illegally drink on the cruise, making sure neither of us lost our SeaPasses, and being held responsible for any issues she may cause while on the cruise.

SeaPasses are the most important item on the cruise that you cannot lose. Connected to the SeaPass is your personal debit/credit card, your photo identification, name, any food allergies, age, room number, and birthday. To enter and exit the cruise when at port, workers scan the barcode on the back of the SeaPass. SeaPasses make worries about shopping, drinking, and boarding miniscule. SeaPasses were one of the best features of traveling on Royal Caribbean.

Wi-Fi packages are not included in the room, and there are multiple packages. We chose the \$200 one, so we could communicate with our friends and family. Drinking packages are also not included, but I was unable to purchase one as my friend was not of legal American drinking age. Had she been 21, a drinking package is \$300 per person, but offers unlimited drinks. You must be at least 21 to drink on the cruise, as it is American owned.

For an interior room, with no windows, two tickets cost us about \$400 each for a four-night, five-day cruise. Compared to an ocean view room, which was \$600, or a balcony room, which started at \$800, an interior room was the best selection. When you are on a cruise, the

room is not as important because most of the time you are participating in activities or at the port. For two college students, an interior room was the smartest choice to make. Our interior room included a shower, toilet, sink, mini fridge, wardrobe space, and a comfortable, basic style hotel queen-size bed.

When booking with Royal Caribbean, you get to pick an allotted dinner time. There is early (5:30pm), middle (6:45pm), or late (8:30pm) and we chose the early dinner. Dinner consisted of an appetizer for each person (unlimited amount), a main course, and dessert. It was delicious and unproblematic food that did not upset the stomach. The menu changes daily.

The cruise offers three meals a day in the main dining halls, but dinner is the only meal in which you must show up to your time. Breakfast times varied by what day it was (day at sea, day at Nassau, Bahamas, day at their exclusive island in the Bahamas CocoCay Perfect Day). Lunch was the shortest main dining hall time, from only 11:30pm to 1:00pm. Besides the three main dining halls, there were other complimentary restaurants available every day, and a buffet. Some restaurants were not included in the cruise and required out-of-pocket costs, but it is easy to avoid those if desired.

The Royal Caribbean ship we were on, Freedom of the Seas, has 13 decks, 11 of which are accessible. The third deck has rooms, a theater where comedy shows and plays are performed, an ice-skating rink, and an art gallery. Deck four had a casino where smoking is permitted, multiple lounge areas with live music, and a sports bar. Deck five was a shopping center, where guest services were located and was home to the karaoke theater. Decks six through eight are all rooms. Decks 9 and 10 were the children’s daycare and teenage club. Decks 11 through 13 are the outdoor areas with each deck having at least one bar. Deck 11 had the Solarium, a 16+ only pool and hot tub, held the main pool, children’s waterpark, and buffet. Deck 12 consisted of a surfing area and waterslides. The top deck was both for a lounge lookout and rock-climbing.

I was nervous to be on a cruise because I did not know what to expect, but my money was well spent. I would rate it at about 8 out of 10. I would recommend a cruise to any college student, or individual, on a strict budget for vacation that still wants to visit a foreign country.



ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISE SHIP



# AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Larissa Hageman, Staff Writer

As someone who grew up in Chicago, and never ventured outside of North America until turning 18, I always wondered what it would be like to live in another part of the world. In high school, I followed a group of travel bloggers and social media influencers who worked or attended universities in European cities such as Paris, London or Prague and tropical destinations like Thailand and Bali. I could only compare what their life was like on Instagram and YouTube to what mine was like as a teenager in Chicago.

Last year, during my sophomore year of college, I was finally able to make this dream a reality and live abroad in Granada, Spain. I lived in an apartment with a flatmate around 15 minutes away from the University of Granada. I acclimated to Spanish life as an international student. After the initial culture-shock, for the first time, I was really taken outside of my comfort zone. I experienced how much culture can influence lifestyle changes—like not eating dinner until 9PM, stores and shops shutting down every afternoon for siesta, and people really taking the time to be with one another. It also made me realize how hard it must be for anyone permanently moving to another country for socioeconomic reasons. My grandparents came to America from Serbia and spoke very little English. I wondered how they were able to do that, and survive.

It made me realize that going to university abroad was a great way to experience a culture for a temporary amount of time, without a lot

of additional stress or responsibility. It also allowed me to relate to international students in my classes, having experienced living abroad myself.

Global Studies director and assistant professor of history at Alfred University, Andrew Kless, has noticed that international students in his classes can have differing worldviews, however he doesn't discourage this.

"As a history professor, I notice that international students often have very different understandings of world history, or national histories. I like to think my lectures are objective and out of the ordinary."

Having lived abroad for more than three years nonconsecutively in Poland, Germany, and France, Kless has experienced multiple perspectives. He's done extensive research on the German and Austro-Hungarian empires while abroad and in the States.

"I know how it feels to be an international student learning history from a non-US perspective. For example, learning European history from a Polish perspective when I was studying at Jagiellonian University in Krakow after finishing my MA; I tried to have an open mind. Learning from Polish professors was insightful. However, sometimes I thought, 'Nope, that's just plain wrong.' That means in class, even some basic facts of historical events are understood differently between me and international students, depending on their home country—sometimes there is [a] convergence during the class about an event, other times the diverging views remain."

Brian Ngatunga, an international student from Tanzania, came to Alfred University to study business.

"I perceived the United States before coming here like a fairytale. I would see movies

and was like, 'Wow, I'm going to this magical place and I'm going to experience awesome things,' recalls Ngatunga.

He credits this to what he has seen in the media, although most depictions are not realistic.

"Most people back at home really associate what they see on TV as real; for example, if someone back home sees women dancing on TV, people in a jacuzzi, or surfing on the ocean, people think the people there are very rich. They are all driving Ferraris and expensive cars," said Ngatunga.

He recalls one of his first times seeing poverty in the United States, which shocked him.

"I remember one thing that really surprised me was seeing a man begging for money in the street because from my perspective, I always thought that in the West everyone is able to afford their life easily. Despite this, we still maintain the same patterns of life," he said.

Elvis Raphael, a freshman marketing student from Nigeria, has experienced a variety of people in the States with fabricated ideas about Africa. He wishes these people could experience countries in Africa firsthand to change their preconceived ideas about African cultures.

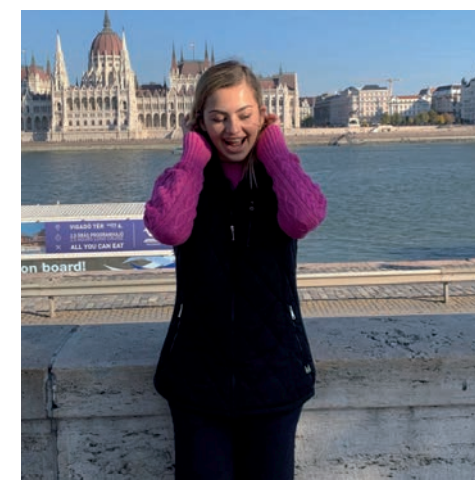
"I've met people who think that we don't have cars, access to the internet, online

shopping, and even think that we get our food directly from farms."

Although Brian Ngatunga is grateful for the opportunities in New York, he still really misses some key aspects about living in Tanzania.

"What I really miss is the supportive community. In the United States the lifestyle is more individualistic, people really only care about themselves and their family. This is very different from back at home because you're kind of responsible for your community. It is evident in the way people interact and live with each other," said Ngatunga.

Some elements of living around the world change, while others stay consistent. This is why studying abroad and experiencing other cultures is so important in developing global perspectives and knowledge.



LARISSA ABROAD IN SPAIN



## THE PIRATE SHOW YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

Sam Sage, Staff Writer

March 3rd, 2022, found the release of the HBO Max show *Our Flag Means Death*, created by David Jenkins (*People of Earth*). The show sets its scene in 1717, at the height of piracy. It follows the misadventures, and genuine adventures, of Stede Bonnet, played by Rhys Darby (*Jumanji: Next Level*).

Captain Stede Bonnet, "*The Gentleman Pirate*," is a wealthy landowner that feels the itch for a life at sea. Over eight episodes viewers are a part of his crew on *The Revenge*, alongside other misfit characters, as they encounter danger in the form of British Naval Officers and humble fishermen. Along the way, Bonnet meets the complicated yet sincere Blackbeard, played by Taika Waititi (*Jojo Rabbit*).

Each episode is roughly thirty minutes long, but is jam-packed with heartfelt and comedic moments, as well as sad and frustrating choices. The finale aired on March 24th, 2022, leaving the storylines of Blackbeard, Bonnet, and the rest of the cast on an immense cliffhanger.

But what's so important about this show?

On the surface, it seems like another comedy series akin to *What We Do in the Shadows*, *Wellington Paranormal*, and *People of Earth*. However, like the aforementioned shows, it maintains a humanity that any viewer can feel a connection to.

LGBTQ+ and BIPOC representation are just the start, as each episode focuses on as many members of *The Revenge's* crew as possible. *Our Flag Means Death* isn't afraid to show complex feelings and relationships with the same importance as the borderline slapstick and camp humor. Viewers will find characters that they relate to, or can empathize with, as confessions and threats are made.

There is never a boring day on *The Revenge*, and thus never a boring moment in *Our Flag Means Death*.

Head over to [www.hbomax.com](http://www.hbomax.com) to start watching *Our Flag Means Death* today.



# ACCESSIBILITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND CONFIDENTIALITY

MEET DIRECTOR OF THE ALFRED UNIVERSITY WELLNESS CENTER,  
ALLSUN OZYESIL



ALLSUN OZYESIL

Sam Sage, Staff Writer

With their building placed far from other administrative locations, and with Alfred's infamous weather creating a physical barrier, it's no surprise that, as a resource, the Alfred University Wellness Center can easily be forgotten by students, and faculty, alike. It's been a fight in recent memory to make sure that Alfred University remembers that there's a helping hand right down the road.

Under the direction of Allsun Ozyesil, the Wellness Center is currently amid a much-needed transitional period. Ozyesil, going into the interview, wanted to make explicitly clear that they wanted to show nothing else but transparency moving forward.

"This transition, it's kind of been an opportunity to kind of reimagine some of things. I think COVID, like with everything else, disrupted the world of mental health. I mean, there are silver linings. Like, I think the fact that everybody was thrown into Zoom Land, it kind of flexed muscles that this profession hasn't accessed. Now, these tools are available and, you know, how to use them to make things more accessible?"

Ozyesil knows that physical, mental, and other barriers are very successful at keeping students and faculty from reaching out, but her hope is that as the Wellness Center works on going hybrid (in-person and telehealth counseling), it will encourage more outreach and assistance.

"I would like to see the Wellness Center make [tele-health] sustainable so that it is something that's accessible. The caveat to it is, you know, that the student must be in New York state because our providers are licensed in New York," they said. "I do feel like we need to catch up with the world, but I'm excited to be here for that, to help the Center to get to where it should be for the students. Honestly, for the staff too."

The Wellness Center provides physical and mental health services, and Ozyesil says that they cover much of the costs. The only things that will require insurance and co-pays are hospital correspondence (for example, blood tests) and psychiatric services. Otherwise, visits to the Center are free to students.

However, Ozyesil was honest in her evaluation of the Wellness Center's capabilities. Noting that the pandemic has exacerbated an already existent mental health crisis, they confessed that working with two counselors, plus themselves, is not an ideal situation.

"I'm all about transparency. I can tell you all the wonderful things about the Wellness Center. The staff is phenomenal, extremely professional, and passionate. But I think that type of work during COVID has really strained

staff, and that's part of it. That's a challenge. Like, yes, it's busy, but I think that if we had two more counselors it would be better all-around for everybody."

There has been a lot of support for the Wellness Center, according to Ozyesil. Her main priority, for when she had first arrived, was to spread information across campus on what resources are available from the Wellness Center, and from outside sources. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and retired members of the Wellness Center are just some of those that have reached out, and offered assistance, to Ozyesil. She wants to repay that kindness by providing possible QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) trainings to faculty so they can better help the students that they care so much about.

"I would love to find out what they feel like is needed from the Wellness Center," they said. "It just sounds like sometimes they just don't know what to do. They're so compassionate and want to help students with some mental health stuff. I would like to see how we can help the faculty help the students."

Ozyesil is an advocate for providing community care, and they believe that the first step to that is educating everyone on the different ways that they can effectively aid the people in their lives.

She is currently working on a website for the Wellness Center which, she admitted, is not going great. However, one of the first resources that they want to share with the campus is BIPOC mental health resources. It's an exhaustive list that she curated, and they're hoping they can share that with students and faculty as soon as possible.

"We have a very homogeneous staff here. Not a lot of diversity, but it's slowly increasing. I can see a big hole of having mirrors, and people that can physically relate. I personally worked on getting a bunch of resources and just having a place where it's a list of links. I already shared it with Brian Saltsman, I think I gave it to him at my interview."

The Wellness Center's, and Allsun Ozyesil's, hopes and plans can be summed up into three words: accessibility, transparency, and confidentiality. The Center has always aimed to guarantee confidentiality and tact when helping students and faculty, but they know that sometimes it's easier for students to reach out unofficially to their professors.

"I think until we can get to the point of some real community care, I think that it's really important for students to know this is a place that they can call," said Ozyesil. "One thing that makes it such an honor to work in a place like this is that anybody carrying whatever their load is can drop it here, and not worry about it leaving here."

## TO THE EDITORS, FROM THE EDITORS

Working as the editor-in-chief of Fiat Lux News has been a truly humbling honor. Words cannot describe how grateful I am for the incredible team that I have had the pleasure to work besides for the past few years. I am certain that Sam Sage will take Fiat Lux News to the next level, and will do it with rigor.

I will be going on to pursue a MA in Publishing at the University of the Arts London, where I look forward to expanding the skills that I picked up working on Fiat Lux News.

Thank you for the opportunity to use Fiat Lux News as my playground to discover my professional passions. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the newspaper over the years, to those who have reached out to congratulate us for putting out a new issue, and to those of you reading this. Lastly, a special thank you to Dr. Robyn Goodman for encouraging me to get involved with the newspaper in the first place.

Yours Truly,  
Talulla Torthé

I'm excited to start the next chapter of the Fiat Lux News in Fall 2022. Learning from and working beside Talulla for the past (almost) two years, has been a wonderful experience. I'm lucky I get to take over as we have more access to on-campus activities and hard copy issues, but Talulla taught me how to make do, and be successful, with uncertainty.

As the semesters go by, I hope I can do right by the memory of all past editors in chief, like my recent predecessors: Talulla Torthé and Caleb Scott.

I can't wait to make the Fiat Lux News a household name again, and I wouldn't be able to do anything of this without the (past, present, and future) Fiat Lux News team's trust and hard work.

Thank you,  
Sam Sage



# THE JITTERS

Raven Scarupa, Staff Writer

They started how they always did. A nervous laugh, here. An overthinking thought, there. I check my phone for the fifth time that minute. Time is too slow. My mind is too fast. I start worrying about everything due. I check the tasks on my calendar. Three of the tasks are overdue. I examine them and find that I forgot to check off the to-do list of forget-me-nots I possess. The blue notes dance across my screen. I make an excuse to leave the conversation and head to my room.

As I walk, thoughts fill my head. They hate me. They're mad at me. I shouldn't have left. I check my phone again. No message notifications fill my screen. Everyone hates me. I'm not good enough for anyone. The voices of the past invade my skull and drown my own thoughts. Fuck. I dig for my earbuds as people walk the sidewalk across the street from me. I catch the end of a sentence and a laugh on the breeze. They're talking about me. I untangle my earbuds, plug them in and press play. The music drowns all thoughts and voices. I calm as rap fills my mind. I walk again to my room.

Sitting at my computer, a to-do list grows next to me. Forget-me-nots taking root and blooming. Take out the trash. Do laundry. Shower. Take your birth control and vitamins. This paper is due on Friday. Call her. Don't forget about the emails. Find a job. Fix resume. Make appointments. The list grows and shrinks and grows again. Call her stays underlined and not crossed out. Chore after chore. I move the paper. I dig through the mess of papers and books for the assignment I'm working on. Old papers flood my vision and I'm quick to take care of them by throwing them on the floor to put them in the garbage. I'll forget about it in a bit. I always do. A video plays in the background. It's a playlist of compilations that I've seen a thousand times. I quote them while half paying attention. My brain focuses for a while.

Nine in the evening, I stretch. I sit and the voices from the past return. Mainly hers. The one who caused the majority of my pain.

I panic as fear and worries set in. I call him. Maybe he can get my mind off. We have a deal. I call when I finish my homework or when he gets out of work. I forgot to call earlier. I hit the video-shaped call button and wait. The ringing tone blares through my earbuds. It dies down as he didn't answer. His avatar pops up in the corner and with blurred vision, I press the button again. Shaky and on the verge of tears as my mind fills with bad thoughts and I almost break. His voice fills my ears before he even comes into frame. He's still in his work uniform. He's apologizing for not calling me earlier. Standby came in now for four hours and he just got to his room. I sniffle and laugh. He comes in and out of frame. He takes note of my shaking and the tears still in my eyes. He asks what's wrong. I say the same old, same old. He nods. He talks for most of the call until he reminds me I need to shower. He is used to this after almost six years of it. I nod and stand on uncertain legs.

Eleven and we're both in bed. He's asleep. I scroll mindless and numb, waiting for sleep to appear. I type in our chat how I just want to live my life how I want, no intrusive people or thoughts. I sigh and watch him sleep in the dark. I whisper and he rolls over. He checks the time and sees the message. He sighs and says that he knows. He then says it's time for sleep. I murmur an agreement. But how much does he know? My thoughts keep me a people pleaser. My thoughts keep me in my trauma. My thoughts trap me. I break free for a while and then go back under. Only when he is here in person, holding me, do the thoughts disappear. The thoughts know they are no match for him. I go to close my eyes. I'm scared of sleeping for when I wake, he is gone to work and the jitters come back again.



## WHEN YOUR DAY FEELS DARK AND DREARY LIKE A STORMY RAINY DAY.

**Remember all the light and warmth that a sunny day can bring. Carry your umbrella of positivity and open it when you need to help you through the storm. The darkness only stays if you allow it in for good so open up your mind's eye and let the light shine in.**

**Remember to see the good in life even when it's bad for when we keep a positive mind the negative is easier to withstand.**

Wendy Marvin, Guest Writer

**INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED WITH FIAT LUX NEWS?**

**AUFIATLUX@GMAIL.COM**

**MEETINGS EVERY TUESDAY AT 6PM IN THE POWELL MEDIA HUB**



# HAIKU HEAVEN

Submitted by Dr. Melissa Ryan's Literature & the Environment Class

by Samuel Adu-Tutu  
**One day, I will be old  
I shall look back at my youth  
I shall remember days old and  
gone, and wish I was a baby again.**

by Katelyn Smith  
**Ivan is my rat.  
His brother's name is Frankie.  
They like to eat food.**

by Sarah Anderson  
**Crassly, she spoke dreams  
Dreams with non existent space  
Too advanced for us.**

by Colton Cook  
**Stillness of one's mind  
A lone pebble alters fate  
Rising from the depths.**

by Taniya Shaw  
**Our past affects time  
Live these moments like our last  
Never dare look back.**

by Brigit Walsh  
**In the summer air  
I wait and stare, I am not  
What you think I am.**

by Alyssa Palermo  
**The taste of fish sticks  
Fried. Salty, salty, salty  
Vegetarian.**

by Kevin Earley  
**Hurting is no fun  
But I'm a survivor here,  
I shall be patient.**

by Jessica Lin  
**The stars shine brightly,  
Like the fire in the distant,  
Cries fill the night.**

by Phoenix Andrews  
**How funny is it  
that you make me feel so warm  
in a winter's night.**

by Sam Kowalski  
**The fork in the road  
It was made by nature's growth  
It made me decide.**

by Brandajah Owens  
**The sky is so bright  
Too big to grasp but look at last  
And the sun looks back.**

by Chloe Smith  
**sweet quiet stillness  
cold wind seeping through my skin  
alone in the world.**

by Pablo Prunty-Russo  
**winter in Alfred  
snows a lot ground disappear  
lots of time in doors.**

by Odalys Pozo  
**cold touches my face  
wonderful just to be here  
breathe in the fresh air.**

by Ross Downing  
**College tuition  
Which genius invented that?  
It's too expensive.**

by Meg Rangstrom  
**I learn to sit still  
Just like telling a songbird  
Learn to not sing, please.**

by Jamall Lewis  
**One insult away  
Hotter than most summer months  
Slap heard round the land!**

by Walter Kreutzer  
**Sundered clouds and sky  
Split before the rain comes down  
Crystal clear droplets.**





# HOT DOG DAY

## APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

### PARADE

12 P.M. MAIN STREET

TEAMS, HORSES  
MARCHING BANDS  
FLOAT COMPETITIONS  
AND MORE

### FESTIVAL

1-5 P.M. A.U. CAMPUS

LOCAL ARTISTS  
GAMES, VENDORS  
WIENER DOG RACE  
LIVE MUSIC, CAR SMASH  
AND, OF COURSE, HOT DOGS

### CONCERT

DOORS OPEN 6 P.M.

CARNEGIE PARKING LOT  
**FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS**  
RAIN OR SHINE  
TICKETS ON SALE IN POWELL CAMPUS CENTER

**- ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT -**

A.E. CRANDALL HOOK & LADDER CO.    BOX OF BOOKS LIBRARY  
THE ARC ALLEGANY-STEUBEN    ALFRED MONTESSORI SCHOOL  
ALLEGANY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION    ALFRED STATION FIRE CO.  
AND THE ALLEGANY-CATTARAUGUS-CHAUTAUQUA FUND FOR WOMEN