

UPPERCLASSMAN HALLS NO MORE



ZACHARY SHAW | PHOTO EDITOR

Jen Kachala (left) and Molly Westfall (right) both upperclassmen welcome first years to The Brick residence hall. There are approximately 20 first years living in The Brick.

EDITORIAL

A number of changes have swept the Alfred University campus this year: the new dining plan and a remodeled Powell, a new provost and a giant mascot walking around. Except few have stirred more reaction than the new housing philosophy.

Alfred has traditionally divided up its housing among class status. First years were typically housed together in Reimer, Tefft, Cannon, Barresi, Kruson and Openhymn; the Pine Hill Suites were primarily sophomore territory and the Ford Street Apartments, The Brick, Bartlett and Anne's House were reserved for upperclassmen. But now the rigid schism between upper-class and first-year halls are no more. As many returning students have noticed, they have first years living across the hall in The Brick and sophomores and juniors back in Barresi and Openhymn, a drastic change in Residence Life's housing philosophy.

Although the change may seem radical for AU, the university is only following in the steps of neighboring SUNY schools, which has been successful over the years. However, returning upperclassmen have expressed animosity toward the new system.

One student who wanted to remain anonymous told the Fiat, "I'm worried that freshman living in places like the Brick is a bad idea because they're loud and can create problems. I heard about incidents in



This shift is an opportunity for students to have more choices for housing selection. I am hopeful that mixing all class years will provide some mentoring and role modeling opportunities as well, in addition to helping new students acclimate to AU even faster than years past."

BRENDA PORTER
the Director of Residence Life

Reimer and other freshman dorms last year. Huge problems, lots of damage. I don't want to say all freshman are immature but the thrill of college life might get to them. Upperclassmen don't want to deal with that all over again. We went through that already."

The issue the student is referring to is Reimer last year was when the resident hall racked up more than a \$1,000 in damages during a particularly wild Homecoming weekend. Some other upper-class residents are worried about noises issues, laundry room etiquette and bathroom cleanliness (these may seem like tedious annoyances, but they can be problematic in a residence hall). That's not to say that upperclassmen are innocent on all of these counts, but there just seems to be a stereotype held against the first-year class that they are frequent perpetrators. There is also an underlying fear within the Resident Assistants who worry First years will have easier access to alcohol after they befriended upperclassmen, which can domino into a slew of pressing issues.

Interesting enough, it is some of those concerns that drove Brenda Porter, the Director of Residence Life, and her staff, to switch things up on campus. In a past interview, Porter said that, "Removing obstacles is really what it is more about for me. This shift is an opportunity for students to have more choices for housing selection.

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A new era, a new Wellness Director

DYLAN SAMMUT
Editor-in-Chief

After a year-long hiatus without a director, the Alfred University Wellness Center has found an ambitious new supervisor, Dr. Stanley Tam. Even if you had never visited the Health Center, Tam is quickly becoming a familiar face in the Alfred community. You'll apt find him walking around campus or at the Terra Cotta, talking with students and striking up conversations with strangers.

He attended Syracuse University for Psychology and Literature and he admits he decided then "to take a year off and ride a skateboard." Soon after he went to Boston for a master's degree in Writ-



ZACHARY SHAW | PHOTO EDITOR
Stanley Tam, the new Wellness Director at Alfred ing, teaching photography and literature on the side. However, he soon became interested in the mental health aspect of psychology.

"I wanted to work with people rather than the stories they write in fiction," he said. His work as an International Counselor parlayed into earning his Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Emerson College and then he was awarded his Doctorate at the Illinois School of Psychology in Chicago.

His emotional and social path is as vibrant as his academic path. Imagine moving between these places: Syracuse, San Francisco, Boston, Burlington, London, New York City, Chicago and finally back in the hills of Western New York at Alfred.

But what brought Tam to our small village?

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Alfred artists striving to end poverty in India

CASSIE KLIPERA
Staff Writer

At Shanti Bhavan, a school whose name means "place of heavenly peace," volunteers can help enrich the lives of impoverished children in India. Two of our own faculty, Becky and Craig Prophet spent three months teaching there and shared their inspiring experience with Alfred at their Bergren Forum this past Thursday. They discovered this volunteer opportunity through a program entitled ASTEP (Artists Striving to End Poverty) whose aim is to teach and connect impover-

ished children with the arts. This program works with several schools within the United States and around the world, one of which is Shanti Bhavan in India. Becky and Craig had full busy days of teaching and working with students from grades kindergarten through 12th but they relayed to us that the 3 months they spent flew by.

Shanit Bhavan was founded in 1996 by Dr. Abraham George in order to give poverty stricken children a full education. Not only does the school provide high quality educational programing, the students that go on to

college afterward have their tuition funded by Shanti Bhavan. Becky Prophet informed us that all the students in the first graduating class of Shanti Bhavan recently graduated from college and all of them are either attending graduate schools or are employed. If it wasn't for the Shanti Bhavan school, the majority of these children would have never even dreamed of being where they are now. Becky shared with us the lyrics of the school song in which they sing of becoming an astronaut, or a physician, and more.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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“I wanted to run my own team. I wanted to work with a university, a small team, a team with different orientations. Also, there is a second element, which is very rare, but this is a more progressive school where the health services and psych services are integrated. It’s a cutting-edge system.”

That’s not say Tam doesn’t have some new, innovative ideas of his own.

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I am hopeful that mixing all class years will provide some mentoring and role modeling opportunities as well, in addition to helping new students acclimate to AU even faster than years past.”

What many have noticed is that groupthink takes charge in first-year halls: One student creates some ruckus and the whole floor goes wild. The new housing models hopes to disarm that type of behavior. Porter and Residence Life staff hope up-

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Tears came to her eyes as read the lyrics, for the children really believe that those dreams can be a reality. Craig noted that it was inspiring to see the small faces of the kindergartners singing these lyrics because those children do have a future to look forward too.

Shanti Bhavan is a boarding school and twice a year the children have a few weeks off to go home, but the Prophets informed us that many of the children choose to stay, or if they do leave it is only for a few days. Not many of us truly know what it means to poor, and even fewer realize the intense poverty of India. Becky and Craig presented a series of photographs that compared the tourist Western view of India to the real-

“Traditionally, it’s been a lot of separation, a lot of individual therapy. Which is great, it’s great care. Ultimately, It’s not doing outwardly and obvious outreach to the community. We’re going to be more community type based therapy. One is group based such as trauma or men’s group working on sexuality, and being a male in regard to gender roles, a women’s group, a LGBT group, a mourning group. A way where we can pool the community together more. Instead of just going to a

perclassmen will become mentors and peer leaders for the first years. So although some upperclassmen are concerned with the new housing plan, they have missed or overlooked the opportunity it presents: a more integrated student community at Alfred. Upperclassmen can push first years to get involved (we all know a lot of student groups have trouble gathering new members) and first years can feel more acclimated. AU may need some time to get adjusted to the new housing plan, but once they do, AU will have yet another thing to boast about.

ity of the India, poverty and child labor.

There are many places in the world where we as individuals can go to make a difference, and Becky and Craig made theirs at Shanti Bhavan, and any one here at Alfred can too. This program offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities that an undergraduate at Alfred or graduate can participate in. Any student in any major can go and teach, or just volunteer. (Becky hinted they were in need of Chemistry and Physics teachers!) This is a magnificent school that is truly changing the lives of these children and maybe more people from Alfred can help.

To find more information about ASTEP, vist www.asteponline.org, and more about Shanti Bhavan at www.shantibhavanonline.org

therapist and then leaving, it’s going to a group and getting support from people you’ll see in the community. The other end of that is going to be specific workshops open to professors, staff, students; they will be informational workshops on nutrition, mindfulness, guided imagery.”

However, a certain and unique character trait of Alfred drew him here as well. Tam likes that everything is in one place, instead of the variables of a large city where you

go “somewhere different every time and meet new people.” It forces people of different backgrounds and disciplines to be in one space.

“In New York City, I would only be friends with psychologist and have discussions with psychologist. Here, I’m having conversations with butchers, Art Historians and Engineers. It’s a good way for me to get exposed. It prevents me from becoming repetitive. Many ways in the same way that a student comes here. But I think it helps

I wanted to run my own team. I wanted to work with a university, a small team, a team with different orientations."

STANLEY TAM
Director of the Wellness Center

where I can have a health center and have a team where we can talk about those differences and turn those into strengths.”

To contact the Health Center, call them at (607)- 871-2400. They are open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. and close for lunch at noon for an hour. The Health Center is located on the corner and Park and Terrace St.

Alfred weighs in on a Syria - US issue

KATIE WIEDMAN
DIANNA BENNETT
Staff Writer

On August 21, a Damascus suburb in Syria was victim of a chemical attack, despite a mandate and vow at the Geneva Convention in 1925 that chemical weapons will never be used again. Now President Obama is faced with having to decide how to respond to what he declared a “red line” in Syria’s civil war. One option he offered is to launch a “limited” air strike against Syria. On Tuesday, the President asked the country to give him more time in dealing with this complicated and devastating attack on innocent civilian. The chemical weapons attack in Syria’s civil war, thus far, killed 1,400 people, including more than 400 children. s. There has been talk with the Syrian government and their allies to convince them to destroy all chemical weapons, never to use them again.

So what are our professors at Alfred saying? We’re hearing from the news that this Senator or that expert has an opinion on this issue, but reporters at the Fiat wanted to find input

from the local community. Professor of History, Dr. Gary Ostrower is usually our campus’ go-to political man.

We asked the seemingly straightforward question: Do you agree with an American attack on Syria as a response to the government’s supposed use of chemical weapons on its own citizens? Ostrower was quick to say he was “on the fence” because there is a strong likelihood that whether or not we act, the outcome will not be in our favor. If we do act, he says, the anti-American sentiment in the Middle East will strengthen and there will be possible destabilization of Syria’s neighboring countries like Lebanon.

However, according to Ostrower, non-action will have negative consequences for the United States as well. In addition to a loss of American “credibility” in the Middle East and worldwide, Iran could take the lack of punishment for the use of weapons of mass destruction as a green light to move ahead with their own nuclear program.

“War is ironic,” Ostrower said. No matter what course of

action is taken it always “triggers unintended outcomes.” This is especially true of the situation in Syria because it is surrounded by plenty of uncertainty, and the likelihood of an undesirable fallout is great. His explanation came down to one thought: Regardless of whatever action Congress decides, there will be no immediate end to the Syrian Civil War.

When we asked the same question of Associate Professor of Political Science, Dr. Jeff Sluyter-Beltrao, we got a more optimistic outlook. The uncertainty over whether or not Syrian President Bashar al- Assad was directly the cause of the chemical weapons attack is reason enough not to act so rashly, he said.

Sluyter-Beltrao is confident that diplomacy could be just as viable an option as attacking, especially after proposals by Syrian allies in Russia to bring leaders together to talk before an attack happens. In light of this, an attack would be “irresponsible.”

“America is the most powerful nation in the world, we should act like it.”

Here, diplomacy could reduce conflict whereas an attack

could just fuel a conflict that has already claimed more than 100,000 lives in Syria.

Ostrower described Obama’s diplomacy in this situation as “amateur hour;” he broke the “first rule of diplomacy: Don’t bluff!” When Hillary Clinton claimed that America’s credibility was at stake, Sluyter-Beltrao replied “That’s bologna,” saying diplomacy could improve our credibility because “for the first time it would show that the United States is willing to listen.”

For Sluyter-Beltrao, the real solution lies in ending the Syrian Civil War which, unlike Ostrower, he feels can be achieved through the right kind of diplomacy. Yet, he did not want us to confuse his stance as taking the use of chemical weapons lightly, “Chemical weapons are an atrocity, in principle, I support wholeheartedly efforts to get rid of weapons of mass destruction.”

It seems that the Alfred community can agree on one thing though: the use of chemical weapons is a moral wrong that we must not ignore.

W.I.L.D. at the First Bergren Forum

Mark McFadden talks about why W.I.L.D. exists



PHOTO PROVIDED

Members of the Forest People scaling a rock wall/high ropes course in South Carolina on their annual spring break trip.

JENNIFER FUTTERMAN
Staff Writer

“What do you see at Alfred?” This is the question Mark McFadden, director of the Career and Development at Alfred, poses to the audience of the first of this year’s Bergren Forums. Primary as a line opener to the W.I.L.D. at Alfred Committee, McFadden uses this question to promote his organization, discussing its history starting from its beginnings about two years ago when it only consisted of volunteers. W.I.L.D. or Wild Immersion, Learning

and Discovery Committee is a team seeking to involve those students with the outdoors and the rest of the Alfred Community. Its objective is to give Alfred University’s students a chance to experience the natural resources and outdoors here in Alfred. What we see at Alfred is the nature and outdoors and this environment and is where W.I.L.D. organizes its activities. Even in the midst of winter W.I.L.D. is outside instead of in campus buildings where most clubs take place. Some of the activities W.I.L.D. plans to of-

fer Alfred this semester include the Horse to Holler hike, Friday Night hikes, kayaking, and even a zombie apocalypse event.

McFadden gives a concise yet informative talk on W.I.L.D., allowing the audience to understand the nature of the Committee and enough to allow any of those interested to become involved such activities. It was a refresher to see a presentation on student affairs at Alfred rather than in an academic field. It is a great avenue to get students to attend these forums because it is not

only relates to those scholars, but also to the lives of current students. While of course a promotion and an advertisement, McFadden’s presentation was appropriate for the beginning of a new semester when students are trying to become involved in organizations. The W.I.L.D. Committee’s three goals, “Dedication to Diversity, Creative Connections, and Wellness within the Wilderness,” is exactly an organization that many students would like to join.

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ZACHARY SHAW | PHOTO EDITOR

At Alfred Poetry night on September 14 students show their creativity with their words in the night club.

'Discomfort in the air'

Mac DeMarco sets a low bar for performances in the Knight Club



ZACHARY SHAW | PHOTO EDITOR

The Artist Mac DeMarco and his band in the Knight Club on August 30 for one of the first performances of the semester.

BRIDGETTE ORTIZ | Staff Writer

There are just some performers that cannot be enjoyed sober. Unfortunately, kicking off the school year, Mac DeMarco is one of those performers.

Mac DeMarco based his performances not on his music but on his crazy antics on stage and crude humor. I came to see Mac DeMarco under the pretense that he would be doing something awesomely stupid, but instead what was given

was an awkward and mediocre show.

Hailing from Montreal, Mac DeMarco is a 23 year-old, self-identified “slacker punk.” A thoroughly independent musician, Mac DeMarco has released five albums since 2009 – all impressively self-released. He has a few shining gems on his albums but has mostly flown under the musical radar. However, his performances were supposed to be anything but calm and under the radar.

The (literal) screeching of Mac DeMarco and his band of middle-aged, burnouts left a discomfort in the air as they butchered cover song after song, particular the Beatles “Blackbird.” When one butchers the Beatles then there is no hope left for the rest of the performance. An-

other cover song Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit” was another miss as they clumsily made fun of the song. Their choice mirrored their awkward leanings toward grunge, with which the audience didn’t really seem to connect to.

They had potential but it was lost as the show went on. Their music was sub-par and their only way of rousing the crowd was by propositioning the female audience to let them “put babies in you” and to “smoke their Canadian cigarettes.” This not so clever ploy led into their song “Ode to Viceroy,” which to their credit, was the best part of the night – a shoe-gazing body swaying ode to the popular cigarette brand. However, one good song could not make up for the rest of the show.

'Highly exciting, powerful and brilliant'

Kyle Abraham puts everyone on their feet with his piece Pavement



STEVEN SCHREIBER | PHOTO PROVIDED

Kyle Abraham and his company Abraham.In.Motion performing *Pavement* at a previous date.

KATELIN WEIDMAN
Staff Writer

On September 6 Kyle Abraham brought his dance work, *Pavement* to Miller theatre. The work showed the history of Pittsburgh’s historically black neighborhoods and the culture of violence, discrimination and a longing for freedom through wealth held within. Upon entering the theatre, I had no idea what I was in for as I’d never seen a dance work

of this nature before. However, when it was over, I admit I would happily go see something like *Pavement* again. The entire performance was moving, but one scene in particular stuck out to me as exceptionally powerful. In this scene the stage went dark and red lights silhouetted the dancers. One dancer stood and yelled for help while the others went past as if they didn’t see him or didn’t want to acknowledge he

was there. His cries intensified into a powerful storm of emotion and desperation while the audience sat on the edges of their seats, waiting to see what would happen to this character’s futile attempts to reach out. The emotion didn’t slow down from there, with intense sounds of screams and gunshots being contrasted by classical music and operatic voices. This contrasted left the audience confused and unnerved

at times, which fit the message and theme that Kyle Abraham was trying to get across. The violent scenes had much more energy, while the classical scenes were calmer with their own edge to them. All in all, *Pavement* was a highly exciting, powerful and brilliant performance that surely captured the attention of the audience. The performance definitely deserved the standing ovation it received.

Hungry college students say bingo

LESLYANN MONTERO
Staff Writer

It was a hit, at least for those lucky students who actually won. Prizes varying from Coca Cola packs, big Party-Sized bags of chips, Twinky boxes, Cereal Boxes, and many more. With radio music playing in the background, a list of the numbers called were projected on a screen in front of everyone and it was also called out by microphone. There were four stages per round. There was typical, normal bingo, playing in five in a row either horizontal, vertical or diagonal, Inner Square, playing an entire square three by three surrounding the free space, Outer Square, getting the Perimeter of the bingo board, and Fill In, which was just filling up the entire square.

When a person won, there was always a judge to check to make sure that it wasn’t a mistake. There were a few flukes, but it only made the others more anxious to win. Some-

times there were people who won more than once, making others envious. When there was a tie and two people had bingo, a game of Rock, Paper, Scissors determined the winner. There was only one tie and the winner of the two received a check for fifty dollars and the loser got five of any item of their choice from the food bank. It was a win-win situation.

As Bingo progressed, the stakes were raised. Stages went from getting two prizes, to five, eight, ten, and then whatever was left. Towards the end there were other ties, mostly between groups of four and five and so they were allowed to get whatever they liked. The final prizes after Fill, the final round, were \$25 pre-paid Visa and Mastercard Gift Cards and \$50 checks.

With students exiting, as Bingo ended, one student could be heard shouting, “Party at my dorm!”, joking that snacks had already been taken care of.

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Abby Heverin, former editor, shares her her fond Fiat memory

During spring 2007, we got word from the administration that some merit scholarship programs—including the award given to National Merit finalists that fully funded my education—might be on the chopping block during budget negotiations. I assigned the story to a talented freshman staff writer, Abby Griffith '10, and focused my energies on preparing to cover the other big story of the week: Bill Pullman's upcoming visit to campus. (This was right before he was named

a trustee, when he'd visit campus maybe once every 4 years.) The Friday of production weekend arrived, and I spent my afternoon in a media Q&A with Mr. Pullman. Griffith spent her afternoon conducting a few last-minute interviews before the faculty meeting where President Edmondson would be discussing the budget. After the Q&A, I logged a few hours in the office, headed to happy hour, and waited for the faculty meeting to let out. The good news: At the meeting,

Edmondson announced that he'd discourage the trustees from cutting scholarships at that time. The bad news: Neither Griffith nor I had time to change out of our professional attire (which, in Alfred in '07 mean jeans/blazer/nice heels) before Pullman's presentation. This is how, at the end of the evening, we found ourselves running up the steps of the Harder auditorium in heels, notepads in hand, trying to catch Charley for a post-meeting quote before he headed

home for the night. (We were successful, by the way. Griffith got her quote, we both worked on our respective articles well into the night, and the next day I shipped my final Fiat as EIC.) It's a weird memory, I know, but also one that nicely sums up the experience of being a student journalist. We were doing important work—we later learned that the pressure of the Fiat's scrutiny played a role in the decision to keep the scholarship budget intact—but we were doing so very much as kids, a little

bit starstruck by Bill Pullman, a little giggly and breathless as we tripped up the stairs, and very much in awe of the fact that our role in the fourth estate gave us the chance to help protect something valuable and change people's lives for the better. It also made for a really good—if thoroughly confusing to outsiders—story. Griffith was the maid of honor in my wedding last summer, and I told the story during a speech introducing our rehearsal dinner guests to the wedding party. Lo and

behold, she'd already written the same story into the toast that she planned to give at our reception the next afternoon. Go figure. Thanks for the excuse to stroll down memory lane, y'all. Here's to 100 more awesome years! Abby Heverin is currently the Communication Coordinator for the International Couch Federation, where she helps execute PR and marketing strategies and edits and develops their quarterly magazine, Coaching World.

ALFRED UNIVERSITY SPORTS
UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 5-11

Men's Soccer:

The Saxons Men's Soccer team split its two contests played this past week, falling 0-2 to SUNY Canton on September 7 before coming back home to defeat Hilbert 3-1 on the 10. Although no Saxons scored against Canton, they managed 6 shots on goal with 3 of them coming from Freshman Richard Lander. Alfred fared much better three days later, getting goals from Zach Kranefeld in the 31st minute and James Piombino in the 73rd. Omar Mohamed added a goal on a penalty kick and Lander assisted on two goals. Goaltender Sam Guy played the first period, allowing no goals on 2 shots. Jacob Bird took over after halftime, allowing 1 goal while making 5 saves. A 1-1 week puts their overall record on the season at 2-3.

Women's Soccer:

The lone game played by the Alfred Women's soccer team this past week was a 2-0 shutout victory at Hilbert college on Saturday, September 7. Senior goaltender Samijo Scheer played a terrific complete game, making 10 saves without allowing a goal. The two goals for the Saxons were scored by Mary Hendee at 6:32 and Nicole Lobur at 57:18. Both were unassisted. Their win gave them a 1-3 record on the season.

Women's Volleyball:

The Alfred Women's Volleyball team competed in the Keuka College Tournament on September 6 and 7, but unfortunately didn't win any matches there, falling to Keuka (0-3), Alfred State (2-3), and Penn State-Behrend (0-3). Senior Outside Hitter Chelsea Hall had 28 kills throughout the tournament, including 17 in the match

against Alfred State. The Saxons returned home to face Empire 8 rival St. John Fisher in a very evenly matched game on Wednesday, September 11th. The Saxons lost a heartbreaker (2-3) despite 2 of the 5 games going to extra points. Hall had 15 kills against Fisher and Middle Core Oppliger had 12. While they are 0-1 in conference so far, their overall record is 2-6.

Women's Tennis:

Women's Tennis dropped both of its matches played this week, losing to St. John Fisher (3-6) and Ithaca (0-9). Winning their matches were 2nd singles player Brennan Ferguson (6-1, 3-6, 6-2), 4th singles Emily Eisenberg (6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7-1 in the third set tiebreaker)), and the 2nd doubles team consisting of both victorious singles players Ferguson and Eisenberg, winning 8-6. With a pair of losses, the Saxons fell to 1-3, 0-2 in the Empire 8.

FIAT REMEMBERS



The Alfred Fire Department commemorates the 9/11 tragedy that occurred 12 years ago. To the left the Fire department raised a pair of American Flags and the right a Fireman honors a fallen hero. Over 300 firefighters and 2,700 people total lost their lives in the attacks.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



PHOTO PROVIDED

L-R back row: Stephen Johnson, from Almond, attending Canisius College in Buffalo NY, David Green, Billie Burns, Kailea Murray from Alfred, attending Alfred University, and Cathy Johnson.
L to R front row: Heather Riefer, from Canisteo, attending Alfred University, Molly Mulhollen, from Hornell, attending Alfred University, Sarah Mulhollen, from Hornell, attending Alfred University, and Robert Cornell.
Missing from picture: Nicole Mastin, from Hornell, attending Alfred University and Heather Remchuk, from Hornell, attending Canisius College in Buffalo NY.

COMIC BY: ISAIAH CASSIN
SLIM STAN

