

Alfred University

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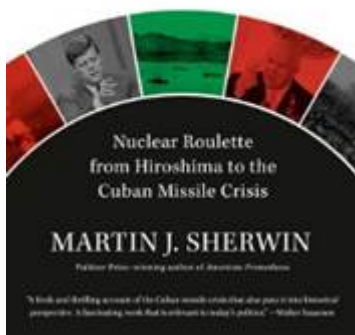
Out of the Classroom

A newsletter of faculty activities and accomplishments

Kevin Adams, Information Literacy Librarian, was selected to be one of the First Year Academic Librarian bloggers for the Association for College and Research Libraries blog (ACRLog). He published his first article to this blog on October 14, 2020 titled “Re-envisioning an Instruction Program with Critical Information Literacy in Mind”. This article walks through his goals and strategies for creating an information literacy program that focuses on social justice at Alfred University.

Kevin also posted an article to the American Library Association’s blog *Intersections*. This blog focuses on the work of library and information science workers that create safe, responsible, and all-inclusive spaces. His article, “An Anti-Racist Statement in the Library: Working Toward Praxis” went up on October 2, 2020. The article highlights the Alfred University Libraries Commitment to Anti-racism and Anti-oppression and his own approach to incorporating anti-racism into his professional life.

GAMBLING with ARMAGEDDON



Gary Ostrower interviewed Pulitzer-Prize winning historian Martin Sherwin about the publication of Sherwin’s new book, [Gambling with Armageddon: Nuclear Roulette from Hiroshima to the Cuban Missile Crisis](#), on WLEA. Sherwin’s book is a gripping account of the most dangerous two weeks in world history.

Raul Barcenes presented the session “Leading in a Culture that Can’t Change: How to navigate your new position successfully amongst obstacles” for the Delaware Music Educators Association held in Delaware on October 9. This session helps secondary music instructors facing tremendous challenges in their new positions reframe their perceptions and work toward the ultimate goal, “doing what’s best for kids.” This includes dealing with urban vs. rural issues, administration, socio-economic barriers, identifying the teacher’s standing in the school culture, and determining the best course of action with real scenarios which have occurred in his past experience as a secondary school educator.

Rivers of Steel Arts invited professor of Sculpture, **Coral Lambert** as a Visiting Artist for the September Iron Casting Workshops at Carrie Blast Furnaces. Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark is a remnant of the once massive, legendary U.S Steel homestead Steel Works and a vestige of Pittsburgh's 20th-century domination of the steel industry. Towering 92 feet over the Monongahela River, constructed of 2.5" thick steel plate and lined with refractory brick, Carrie Furnaces #6 and #7 are extremely rare examples of pre-World War II iron-making technology. Since the collapse of the region's steel industry in the 1970s and 1980s, these are the only disused blast furnaces in the region that remain as a heritage site.

For many years, the site lay dormant and informally attracted artists who started to reclaim and invigorate the site with public sculpture and graffiti art. On site now is an artist built coked fired Iron Furnace where the art and act of casting iron dramatically takes place within the shadows of the historic site. Rivers of Steel Arts celebrates creative inquiry by crafting opportunities to interpret the region's past, reimagine its future, and explore a sense of place.

Whilst there Lambert produced 14 cast iron components including some of her recent 'weeping sculpture' series. She will be incorporating the castings into new work during her current sabbatical. In conjunction with the staff of Rivers of Steel Arts, she provided workshop instruction regarding mold making, preparation and best practices for metal casting. As well as sharing an artist's presentation to the workshop participants, she offered advice and feedback on their projects providing support during the final casting process to ensure successful and safe casting.

Lambert is in conversation with Rivers of Steel Metal Arts Program to provide opportunities for Alfred Students. Inspired by the legacy of iron-making at the Carrie Blast Furnaces, our students can participate in educational workshops and team-building experiences that highlight foundry work as well as how art can be used as a tool for renewal in an urban setting.

Tim Keenan and **Bill LaCourse** have begun analytical work related to dental materials with a New England-based company. The project marks the initial steps in this newly formed relationship, and both Tim and Bill are hopeful that this will help lead to further opportunities for AU to lend its combined expertise in both glass and biomaterials science to industry.



Geoff Lipa, Jean Cardinale and Heather Zimbler-DeLorenzo have had their case, "Sponges and Bubbles: A refreshed investigation of pH and buffers", accepted for publication in the *National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science* published on the University at Buffalo Biological Sciences UB website.

This laboratory, or directed, case is an adaptation of the "clicker case" by Terry Platt that reviews basic chemistry to explain pH and buffers (see "Acids, pH and Buffers: Some Basic Chemistry for Biological Science" published by the *National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science*). This adaption utilizes the storyline from the previous case study, while providing a student-centered experience with two experiments to be completed in class. The experiments incorporate unifying questions to be discussed in groups or as a class. They explore the connections between a standard kitchen sponge and the important functionality of pH and buffer systems. Using PowerPoint slides, the case is interposed by questions,

along with hands-on experiments that deconstruct the chemical processes involved in pH regulation by buffers. The case can be adapted for an introductory biological or biochemical lecture or laboratory class.

Jean Cardinale also co-authored a recent publication featured on the American Society for Microbiology's website. The article, "An Interactive Video Vignette with a Microbiology Focus." This article discusses the origins and process of producing interactive vignettes and is available [here](#).

James Hansen has published a book review on Gregory Zinman's *Making Images Move: Handmade Cinema and the Other Arts* (University of California Press, 2020) in the Spring/Fall 2020 Issue of *Millennium Film Journal*, the longest running journal dedicated to artists' moving image and experimental cinema.