

Alfred University and Jeopardy! A tradition continues

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Alfred University was included in a question on a recent episode of the popular national game show, “Jeopardy!” Combined with appearances by several alumni and a former faculty member as competitors on the show, the connection between Alfred University and Jeopardy! dates back more than 50 years.

During the April 15 episode, under the category “Unique College Courses” was the question: SWEET! ALFRED UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK OFFERED A COURSE IN THIS PANCAKE TOPPER. The answer, of course, was [“What is maple syrup.”](#) the sticky sweet breakfast condiment that is the topic of the Alfred University Honors Program course taught by Laurie Lounsberry Meehan ’91, University archivist.

Alfred University’s connection with “Jeopardy!”—which first aired in 1964—goes beyond being included in the question in the recent episode. At least seven people associated with our University—six alumni and a former faculty member—have been on the show.

Lambros Touris ’70 appeared 52 years ago, in 1968, losing in the final round after a weeklong competition; Lester Friedman ’67 appeared in 1990, winning the first night’s competition before ultimately finishing second; Catie Camille ’98 was on in 2005; and Evelyn Chester ’04 appeared in 2009.

Andrea Pinyan ’98 competed in the “Jeopardy! College Championships” in 1997, just missing advancing past the first round. Paige (Junker) Ormiston ’99 (biology) enjoyed the most success of the AU Jeopardy alumni, [winning more than \\$32,000 on a June 17, 2014 episode.](#)

Michael Breen, who taught mathematics here in the late 1980s and is now public awareness officer for the American Mathematical Society (AMS), has appeared on both “Jeopardy!” and “Wheel of Fortune.” Mike co-founded and hosts an annual game show sponsored by the AMS, “Who Wants to be a Mathematician,” in which high school students compete for cash and prizes by answering math questions.