

## Fiat Flashback Chronicling Carnegie

Cheyenne Rainford  
Managing Editor  
“For 44 years, Carnegie Hall served Alfred University as its library,” reads an article from the AU archives, until the Herrick Memorial Library replaced it in 1958. Its story began much earlier, however, on a cold bench in a tiled hallway in 1906.

In the early 1900s, AU sought to construct an academic library. The administration found an opportunity in Andrew Carnegie, a steel manufacturing tycoon who poured his \$60 million fortune into “a system of 1,689 public libraries across the country,” according to NPR writer, Susan Stamberg.

It was widely known that Carnegie’s secretary, James Bertram, handled most of his business affairs. Potential clients were quite fortunate if Carnegie himself ever saw their applications. In order to ensure that AU would be counted among those most fortunate clients, former university president Boothe Davis paid a visit to Carnegie’s mansion in New York City. His memoirs detail the chill of the bench where he waited to be seen.

The university was further assisted in this venture by Melvin Dewey, inventor of the Dewey Decimal System, who wrote to Carnegie assuring him that there was nowhere better to spend his money than AU.



Source: Google Images

“They [AU] do as much for the cause of education with a dollar in Alfred as some institutions do with three or five,” he wrote.

According to Stamberg’s article, Carnegie only consented to build one of his libraries under the condition that the communities in which they were built raised funds “for books, salaries and maintenance.” Carnegie libraries provided information access to the general public and undermined the elitist notion that education was for the wealthy and privileged.

While Davis was successful in assuring that AU’s library application would make it to Carnegie’s desk, there was a catch. The university owed a debt “crowding \$60,000,” according to former university president John Norwood in “FIAT

LUX: The Story of Alfred University.”

Carnegie agreed to give \$25,000 to construct a library for AU on the condition that the university absolve its debt first. According to Norwood, the administration “buckled down to the task” and formed a committee to solicit “\$75,000 beside the philanthropist’s [Carnegie’s] gift.”

Since it was to be a public library as well as an academic one, the Town of Alfred assisted in fundraising as well - raising over half of their \$12,000 quota by New Year’s Eve, 1907. Shortly after Commencement in 1910, the funds surpassed the \$75,000 goal.

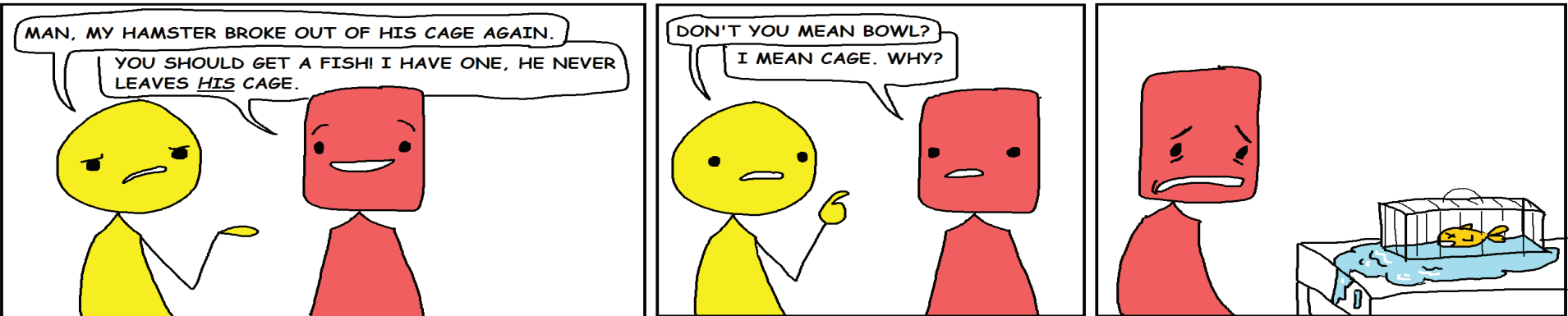
Amanda and Susan Burdick donated the Main Street site for the libraries construction in memory

of their late husband and father, William Burdick. Construction concluded in 1913 and the building was dedicated on Commencement Day that year.

In 1963, the university began a renovation to convert the library to an administrative building. Unbeknownst to the university, this was but the first of two renovations.

Current students are aware that the story of Carnegie Hall is still being written. In March 2014, President Edmondson announced that air quality tests had confirmed mold. He warned that, in the process of completing additional testing, it was possible that any renovation work may disturb asbestos. Presently, a full renovation is in progress.

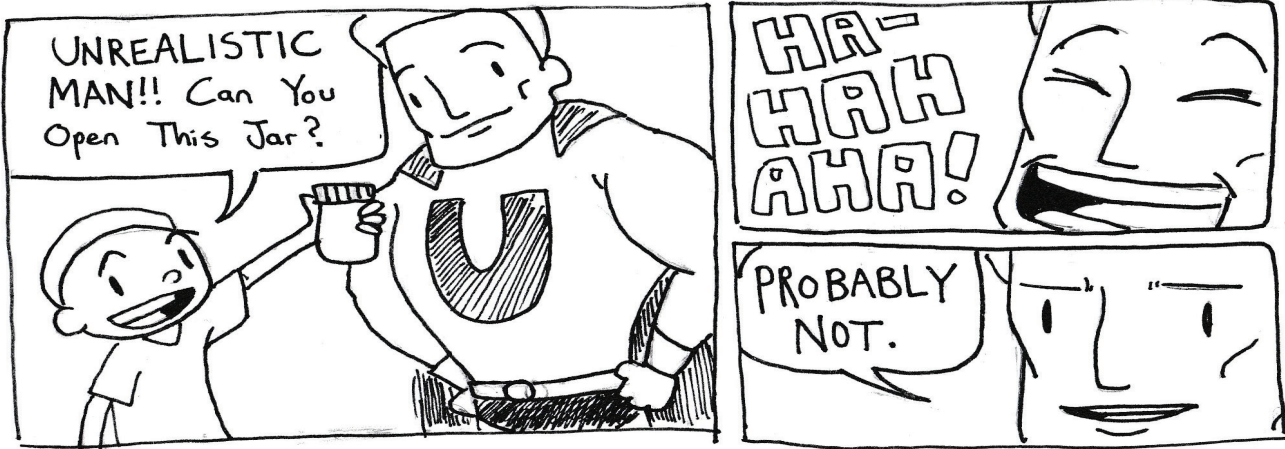
Comics by Scott Fitzpatrick



“I Hate Toast”

### THE ADVENTURES OF **UNREALISTIC MAN!**

"America's Most Unrealistic Hero"





# FIATLUX

Franchesca Feliz  
Cheyenne Rainford  
Courtney Ferrara  
Logan Gee  
Hannah Sweet  
Danielle Hickin  
Krystal Laskaris  
Matthew Barnhart  
Noah Mitchell  
Sydney Walter  
Eric Akalski  
Sarah Thomann

Editor-in-Chief  
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# Austin Moody Sets the Mood

## Rising Country Singer Impresses Campus

Matthew Barnhart  
Guest Writer

At 9:30 p.m. on Saturday October 24, a rising country singer came to campus to perform at the Knight Club, brought by the Student Activities Board. The crowd instantly loved him and wanted more than he could offer.

Austin Moody is a guy that grew up on a farm in Western Tennessee listening to old school country music, like Johnny Cash. He moved to Nashville around four years ago and has been performing ever since. Self-described as “too country for country music,” he almost quit the business altogether. Thankfully he didn’t, otherwise the show would not have been as good as it was.

Moody sang a mix of cover songs and original music. His band used a bass and acoustic guitar that is used a lot in modern country music but the way the two sounds echoed off the walls of the Knight Club, it was different. The twangy, Tennessee accent echoed along with the instruments that reminded everyone why they loved country music. Moody has followed the trend of modern music artists and wrote



Source: twitter.com

personal songs about relationships and women. He once wrote a song inspired from hearing other songs on the radio about disrespecting women.

During one of Moody’s slower songs, a couple starting dancing along. They were turning slowly but tightly embraced in a motion that showed their devotion to each other. It was one of those small things that makes a person remember who is important in life.

Moody says he is constantly proud of his career and his family is proud of him as well. After the show, everyone in the audience stayed back to talk and cut a “pumpkin roll,” a pumpkin bread dessert rolled with cream cheese in a shape similar to Christmas Log that is found during the holidays. It was delicious and I can not wait to hear more from this amazing person and artist.

# Urban Experiences in American Judaism

Logan Gee  
Staff Writer

The urban experiences of America shaped modern Judaism, American Jewish historian and professor Deborah Dash Moore told an audience Oct. 19 in Nevins Theater.

“They [Jews] took from the streets modes of living Jewishly that were not necessarily connected to synagogue life,” she said.

The Lefkowitz Lecture committee, chaired by associate professor Robert Reginio, invited Moore to speak at this year’s lecture due to her research in Judaism. She stressed that in order for people to understand contemporary Judaism, they need to understand the urban origins in American Judaism.

Moore’s presentation focused on the Americanization of Jewish buildings, Jewish streets and photographs of Jewish life in the early 1900s.

Jewish experiences in urban America influenced the way society understands Jews today, and it also helped them stay Jewish.

While Jews brought with them their culture and values of old Europe, they soon realized to be successful they would have to adapt to American culture.

For example, synagogues were



Source: linkedin.com

built to blend into American cities. The Touro Synagogue, resembled a very American building. But it was still a Jewish symbol due to the studying and worship that took place inside of it.

Another example, a synagogue located in Brooklyn, resembled a community center, she said. The building included rooms for study, indoor sports and even a swimming pool.

Jews did not want to stand out in America, she said. In order to blend, but still retain their culture, Jews allowed American values to influence Judaism.

The streets of urban neighborhoods also influenced Jewish life.

Even though many of the shops in predominately Jewish neighborhoods were owned by Americans, Jewish culture spread throughout them. The cycle of the Jewish year was recognized throughout the streets with shop owners advertising products that were relevant to Jews holidays. For example, Moore said shop owners would sell clothing for Rosh Hashana and would close stores for the Sabbath.

The intermingling of English and Yiddish became apparent within the streets due to shop owners’

advertising in Yiddish to Jewish shoppers.

Finally, Moore presented several photographs, each documenting Jews in America. The last photo she shared was an iconic photo of a journey called The Steerage taken by Alfred Stieglitz. It captured Jews traveling from Europe to America. The main focus of the photo, Moore said, was to capture what the Jews brought with them in both material and values.

Then Jews adopted new ways of living that they had not known before America, evolving the culture into what it is today.

“Their [Jews] responses to those places meant that they changed the character of their Judaism, they reformed it, they Americanized,” she concluded.



# What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

Hannah Sweet & Danielle Hickin  
Staff Writers



**Rob Ensmenger**  
Junior  
Athletic Training  
“I do celebrate Thanksgiving, yes, and my favorite dish is the apple pie at the end.”

**Scott Kelly**  
Junior  
Athletic Training  
“Of course, of course...it’s my favorite holiday of the year, and I’d say the stuffing.”



**Larissa Wesche**  
Junior  
Early childhood education  
“Yes, I celebrate Thanksgiving, and my favorite is the pies.”



**Lydia Galarneau**  
Junior  
Human Rights Advocacy and Communications  
“My family and I do celebrate Thanksgiving. I don’t really like turkey, I really like stuffing usually, and the pumpkin pie obviously.”

## Letter to the Editor



Source: hulu.com

**Matthew Barnhart**  
Guest Writer  
Being hard-of-hearing (HoH), I have to ask my professors to repeat themselves multiple times if there is other noise. There are professors I’ve had that don’t say things clearly or mumble. I have to read people’s lips when they talk to me or else I don’t understand what they say. My music, when I listen to it, is louder than some people can bear to hear. I don’t know American Sign Language (ASL) because my hearing has only recently become as bad as it is.  
People don’t like to repeat themselves, but because of my hearing, I have to constantly ask them to do so, or I won’t learn anything.  
On campus, I’ve seen one “Assistive Listening System Available” sign outside Nevins Theater on the second floor of Powell. Although I’ve never had to use that

system, I got confirmation that it is very outdated and might not work all of the time it is in use.  
I asked around if there was an American Sign Language course offered on AU or Alfred State and I’ve yet to receive an answer that I like.  
Deaf culture is something that not many people know of or are sensitive about. It is slowly permeating mainstream media with “Switched at Birth” on ABC Family and Nyle DiMarco on “America’s Next Top Model.”  
For a university that preaches about inclusivity, AU doesn’t present that for people with internal disabilities.

## November is Here

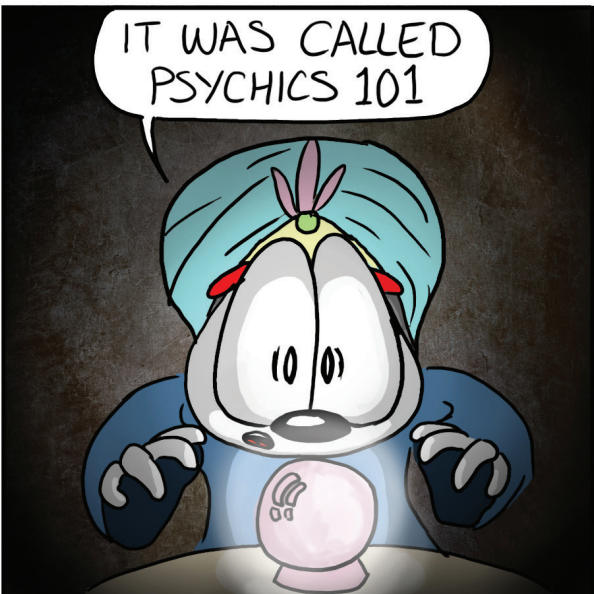
**Krystal Laskaris**  
Staff Writer  
November is a special time of year for thousands of people all over the world and not just because of Thanksgiving. Instead, midnight Nov. 1 marks the start of the annual National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) event.  
NaNoWriMo is an event which challenges writers to write an entire 50,000 word novel in just 30 days. There are no requirements on genre or style and no pressure for it to be the next modern classic.  
There is no adherence to the 50,000 word goal either, as people can choose to write more or less as they see fit for themselves. It’s an

event designed to encourage writing among the masses and for pure entertainment.  
NaNoWriMo is sponsored by a nonprofit organization called the Office of Letters and Light (OLL) which promotes literacy and creativity in young people. The event is one of the organization’s greatest fundraisers as participants often donate or buy NaNoWriMo themed merchandise.  
While November is already well under way, people can begin at any point they want. To get started, sign up for free at Nanowrimo.org and get writing. It’s that simple, and that hard.



Source: nanowrimo.org





Credit: Scott Fitzpatrick

Admit One



Show Times:  
14 Weeks Only  
Ending Jan. 9, 2016

Mondays at 8:00pm  
Tuesday at 7:00pm  
Wednesday is Dark Day  
Thursday at 8:00pm  
Friday at 8:00pm  
Saturday at 2:00pm & 8:00pm  
Sunday at 3:00pm & 7:30pm

Brook Atkinson Theatre  
56 West 47th St.  
New York, NY

Admit One

## All Hands on Deck!

Sydney Walter  
Guest Writer

Back in 2006, the rock musical of Spring Awakening graced the Broadway stage and forever changed how we viewed musicals. From sex to suicide and abuse to confusion, this musical changed lives for so many. The original cast was a powerhouse of talent which featured Jonathan Groff (Glee, Frozen, American Sniper), Lea Michele (Glee, *Scream Queens*), Skylar Astin (Pitch Perfect, 21 & Over), John Gallagher Jr (The News Room, Jonah Hex) and so many talented others. The musical, “All Hands on Deck,” is based on the play of Spring Awakening, based in Germany in the later part of the 19th century, about many young people trying to figure out who they are and how to make sense of everything.

Each of these teens goes on to explore the deeper problems in their lives, such as teen pregnancies and botched abortions. The musical was nominated for 11 Tony Awards and won 8 of them. It is now being revived on Broadway by the Deaf West Theatre from Los Angeles. A stunning new aspect of this show is that the entire show is also being signed in American Sign Language. Austin McKenzie is starring as the Melchior, Sandra Me Frank as the lovely and lost Wendla, Daniel Durant as Moritz and Treshelle Edmond as Martha. They are so passionate about their roles and the amount of love they have for this show shines through as they sign their hearts on the Broadway stage.

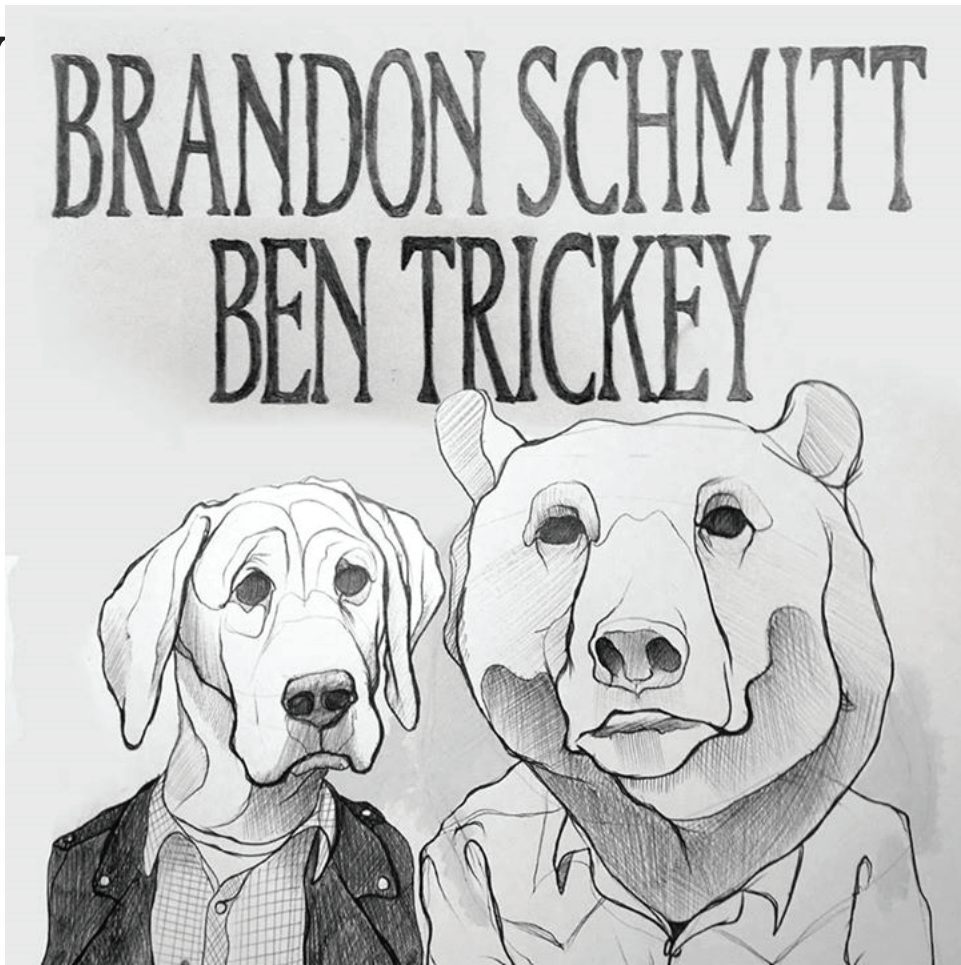
## Trickey Schmitt Review

Matthew Barnhart  
Guest Writer

At 10 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22, a couple of alumni from the Class of 2005 returned to their old stomping grounds, hosted by Natalie Lambert of the Student Activities Board (SAB). Benjamin Trickey and Brandon Schmitt spoke briefly to current art students, primarily Foundations students.

Trickey and Schmitt are described as being a mix of “dark blues and country-folk” sound that someone described as “country experimental.” The band’s entourage are extremely humble and support the ideals that AU faculty try to instill in students. The townspeople in the audience remembered the alum from their time on campus and it was obvious that they Trickey and Schmitt were well loved in Alfred. Trickey’s raspy vocals triggered nostalgia in me. He stirred memories of rocking in an old rocking

chair with my grandfather while watching the sunset. His voice has an old school country feel to it that very few country singers can attain today. Trickey is from Atlanta, G.A. He has written his own music since graduating in 2005 and has been featured on Sirius XM’s “The Loft.” Schmitt’s voice is one I could listen to all day. His sound is reminiscent of what you might hear in Terra Cotta while studying for finals with friends over some late night coffee. He has a very soulful style that people can identify with. I can’t wait to hear more about them in the coming years and hope that they return to AU again soon. The concert ended as most concerts do. The performers thanked the audience, who left with an expanded sense of their own musical taste.



Source: heyevent.com



# Panelists Ponder Presidential Race

Noah Mitchell  
Guest Writer

The presidential campaign is in full swing, and with it comes a number of controversial issues, many of which were discussed last week by a panel of local experts as a part of Alfred University’s Bergren Forum, in Nevins Theater.

The panel consisted of AU president Charles Edmondson, political science professors Robert Stein and Robert Heineman, and professor of philosophy Emrys Westacott. Professor of history, Gary Ostrower, moderated the panel.

Although hurriedly put together to replace a women in jazz talk, the roundtable-esque event was met with a large and enthusiastic audience. The speakers seemed to have some specific, reoccurring interests, including the Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders, the general tomfoolery of political debates and the campaign system’s dependency on money.

Edmonson began the discussion by focusing on this dependency, and how many politicians and their associates use it.

“There’s literally no limit to what people can spend. You’ve seen the consequences with this,” Edmondson explained in his opening remarks.

Since the decision of Citizens United in 2010, more than one billion dollars has been donated to campaigns through super PACs. However, Edmondson said



Photo Credit: facebook.com

60 percent of that total amount was contributed by only 195 individuals, illustrating a wealthy few influencing results.

The majority of this money is going to Republican candidates, with the exception of Hillary Clinton, said Edmondson. Clinton is in a unique position where she is the only Democratic candidate whose funds match those of the opposing party. Bernie Sanders, the Democrat seemingly tied with Clinton, will not have the financial means to continue as elections proceed, according to Edmonson.

This led to Stein commenting on Sanders, comparing his current run with that of Obama’s.

“Sanders has captured the imagination of young people, especially students,” said Stein.

When Obama was running, he won the Latino, African-American

and young adult votes. But Clinton, according to Stein, may not have the African-American vote as much as she thinks. If Sanders already has students in his corner, he has an opportunity to pass by Clinton, just like Obama did in 2008.

Heineman added that, in his opinion, Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio may have the Latino vote as far as Republicans go. But, in regards to Sanders versus Clinton, Heineman explained that people just can’t buy votes, a lesson which Clinton may soon learn. Sanders is likeable and sticks to his issues, unlike Clinton.

“You can have all these businesses and people in your pocket,” Heineman said “But it can only take you so far.”

While many of the professors spoke highly of Sanders, they debated whether or not he had a serious chance of getting elected.

Westacott, an avid supporter of Sanders, says he appreciates Sanders’ dedication to the “high road” in debates and used the opportunity to criticize the electoral campaign, a critique that was well-received by the crowd.

“To me, politicians campaigning for two years seems a bit nutty,” added Westacott.

They should be doing their jobs as senators and congressmen instead of itching to race, he added. Westacott compared the elections to horses pressed up against a starting gate and the debates to a circus tent, in which politicians argue relentlessly over one another in an almost comedic fashion. Many politicians believe that in order to win, they must do everything they can, which mostly results in an embarrassed public.

While the crowd appreciated the commentary and comparisons, they seemed disappointed that there was little time for Q&A. In the few minutes remaining, topics such as Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, and third party candidates were thrown around. While they didn’t develop into large discussions, they provided more perspectives into this cluster of a campaign. Specifically with Trump, Ostrower added that while we might refer to Trump and other issues as a joke, “Sometimes, jokes get elected to office.” A scary thought.

# The Martian - Book and Movie Review

Krystal Laskaris  
Staff Writer

One of Hollywood’s most recent book-to-movie adaptations is The Martian by Andy Weir. The story follows an astronaut who finds himself stranded and fighting for survival on Mars.

I found the book to be an interesting science-fiction read. Sometimes the science explanations used within the book were complicated and slowed the story down a little. At others, the number of things that go wrong for the main character Mark Watney feels repetitive. However, the Watney’s personality and perseverance drive the story onward at an enjoyable pace. Weir makes the right choice in his main character because any other choice would make the story much less enjoyable. I give the book a 3.75 out

of five stars. Goodreads rates it at 4.38 out of five stars.

The movie is one of the better book-to-movie adaptations out there, though some of the changes to the story don’t appear to serve a real purpose. Some of the humor in the book is lost in the movie, though Matt Damon makes a pretty good Mark Watney. This loss of humor makes the movie a little less enjoyable but not overly so.

The cinematography of the movie is impressive and believable, which brings a lot of the thrill back into the story. IMDb rates this movie with an 8.3 out of ten stars. Sticking with the five star system used to rate the book, I rate the movie at a 3.25 out of five stars.



Source: Google Images



# Alfred University Volleyball Ends Season At SUNYIT

UTICA, NY – The Alfred University women’s volleyball team ended its 2015 season with a pair of losses during the SUNYIT Tournament on Saturday afternoon to the host institution and New Rochelle.

Both losses were in three sets but all three sets against New Rochelle were close with the first two being decided by just two points, 25-27, 23-25 and 17-25. The Saxons (4-27, 0-8 Empire 8) fell in the earlier match against SUNYIT 15-25, 16-25 and 7-25.

Sophomore Heather D’Andrea (Erie, PA/Mercyhurst Prep) lead the Saxons on the day with a total of 16 points. She garnered most of her points against the Blue Angels of New Rochelle from 10 kills and

one ace for 11 points. She also had a team-high of 13 digs in that match. Sophomore Jacquelynn Hicks (Greenville, NY/Greenville) followed D’Andrea in points on the day with 15.5. She had nine kills, a solo block and an assisted block in the evening match.

Junior Mary Lou Patnaude (Burnt Hills, NY/Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake) had nine kills and one block assist against New Rochelle and added one ace and another kill against SUNYIT.

Sophomore Aubrey Totsline (Fairport, NY/Fairport) had 45 set assists on the day.



Source: gosaxons.com

# Alfred University’s Licata named Empire 8 Defensive Player of the Week

Saxons’ Licata earns spot on D3football.com Team of the Week



Source: gosaxons.com

ALFRED, NY — A.J. Licata (Lake View, NY/Frontier), a member of the Alfred University football team, has earned weekly honors from the Empire 8 Conference.

Licata, a sophomore outside linebacker, was named Empire 8 Defensive Player of the Week. He was honored for his play in Alfred’s

35-13 conference win at Brockport on Saturday. Licata made 16 tackles (eight solo), including 2 ½ for loss and a sack, and had an interception.

On the season, Licata is second on the team in tackles (73) and leads the team in tackles for loss (10 ½). He also has two fumble recoveries and a forced fumble.

Alfred (6-2, 4-2 Empire 8) is in action next on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 1 p.m. at home against Utica College. Licata was named to D3football.com’s Team of the Week. He was honored for his play in Alfred’s 35-13 Empire 8 Conference victory at Brockport on Saturday, during which he had 16 tackles (eight solo), including 2 ½ for loss (nine

yards) and a sack (seven yards), to go with an interception and a pass breakup. D3football.com is a leading on-line resource providing coverage of Division III football. Licata is the second AU player named to the Team of the Week this season, joining junior defensive tackle Andrew Miller (Hilton, NY/Hilton), who was honored for his play in a Sept. 5 win at Husson.

Earlier this week, Licata was named Empire 8 Conference Defensive Player of the Week for his play in the Brockport game. On the season, he is second on the team in tackles (73) and leads the team in tackles for loss (10 ½). He also has two fumble recoveries and a forced fumble.

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# Success in Sustainability

Eric Akalski  
Guest Writer

In order for a small family business to be “sustainably successful,” it must follow the three p’s of sustainability: people, planet and profits, AU graduate Amanda Vizcarra told an Alfred University audience.

“Maintaining the 3 p’s is a balancing act,” said, Vizcarra.

Vizcarra graduated from Alfred University in 2004 with a degree in business administration, and she returned to Becker Farms, a small family business, after her father brought up the idea of opening up a vineyard.

Becker Farms was established in 1894 in Gasport, NY, and was sustainable from 1960 to 1970. In the late 1970s, Becker Farms was taken over by Melinda and Oscar Vizcarra, Amanda’s parents. The Vizcarra family decided to focus on their guests experience and invited community members to the farm and vineyard to enjoy events. In 1982 they had their first Harvest Festival, and this tradition has continued into the early millennium. Becker

farm has slowly expanded, adding a bakery, ice cream stand, pop stand, vineyard, Becker Brewing Co. and Gastropub, Becker Farms pastry, and Press vineyard retreat.

As Becker Farms continued to expand it opened the Press Vineyard Retreat. The Press Vineyard Retreat consists of a small series of ten cabins that are eco friendly. The cabins are situated between the farm and the vineyard. During this time, private events such as weddings, were beginning to be held at the farm and vineyard as well.

“By 2010 Becker Farms Private events was not only utilizing our own beer, wine, and cider, we were also providing 90 percent of all produce for all of the meals as well, which gave us a competitive edge over our competitors and made us more efficient and profitable,” she said.

Becker Farms has developed into a successful small business because of its constant pursuit to maintain the three p’s of sustainability.

The “people” of social sustainability focus on maintaining mutually beneficial relationships with employees, customers and the community. The Becker Farms people include the family, staff and customers. The family wants to foster education and growth. It has educated the community and tens of thousands of kids starting at the age of four on where their food is coming from and how to become self-sustainable.

Family tradition is important, Amanda stated.

“My brother makes the cider, the apples come from my parent’s trees and those trees came from our ancestors,” she said.

The “planet” of environmental sustainability focuses on the impact of resource usage, waste and emissions. The Vizcarra family and Becker Farms never throw food away and do not allow employees to take extra food home, she said. They have a diverse amount of crops that are fertilized by compost

piles and wine pulps. The farm also uses the grease from fries as bio fuel and cuts down wood from its own forest. The farm has also put in a nutrient management program.

The “profits” of economic sustainability focus on the business efficiency, productivity and profit. Becker Farm goes through intensive training programs to keep turnover rates low. It is are constantly refining processes and procedures to increase efficiency. Becker Farm’s employees are cross-utilized and are often seasonal workers with only seven full-time employees on staff in the offseason. The family is not afraid of change and never forgets to pay itself, which is important for financial success.

Vizcarra concluded on, “Our commitment to sustainability that will lead us into the next generation and protecting our planet and taking care of our people may make us rich but most importantly it will enrich our lives.”

# Shira May Discusses Growing up Gay

Sarah Thomann  
Guest Writer

Growing up queer and in an orthodox Jewish home was something Shira May of the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley spoke about on Oct. 26, in Nevins Theater.

“Choosing to live a happy and authentic life, there was no other choice. I had to do it,” she said.

May was born to Jewish orthodox parents and began her life as a traditionally raised Jewish child. As May grew up she started realizing that while other kids had either crushes on boys or girls she had them on both genders. After receiving strong messages that homosexuality was not acceptable in her community she repressed her feelings for the opposite sex. As time grew on May realized she had no way of identifying herself outside of Judaism. Her culture and its practices were what she had come to know very well due to a very traditional Jewish upbringing.

As she continued her education up through college she was still repressing her feelings and eventually settled down with her new husband and had a child. It was not until this that May decided she needed to start living for herself. She started questioning the way the Jewish religion worked for her life and if this was something she was really comfortable with. By the time May was in her mid-thirties she decided to take a new lease on life and



Shira May

Source: gayalliance.org

come out to some close family and friends, her husband being one.

May took on the job of living the life she had always thought about and finally expressing the feelings she had been having since adolescences.

“We come from different backgrounds. We grow and change over time,” May said.

Deciding to step away from her Jewish upbringing was a difficult realization to come to but was something she felt the need to do. When she had washed her hands of the Jewish community she was brought up in, May went and sought out other religions to find her inner peace.

It was a journey that helped her see no matter what religion you were, you needed to be content

with yourself before you could be content with your religious practices. Something she had struggled with for many years was starting to become clearer for her.

The next big step May took was finally coming to terms with the feelings she had been having since adolescence.

Different people in her life took the news in a variety of ways. Her mother denied the news and just brushed it off. Her father was unsure of it, but was accepting of who his daughter was and what she was doing with her life. Her siblings were very accepting as well as loving towards her. Though they may not fully understand where the news was coming from, they did not treat their sister any different than they had before. Her husband on the other hand took the news as more of a threat to their marriage. It was something he struggled to come to terms with and still has trouble fully understanding the situation.

With the two biggest hurdles behind her, struggling with her religion and her coming out to family and friends, May started to focus on herself for once. With her marriage behind her, she started educating herself on homosexuality and religion as one.

She attended many conferences and saw the struggles that others

had faced with the same problem as her. There were other people out there who knew her struggle and could accept her for having these feelings and acting upon them. It was something May had been unknowingly searching for, but gladly accepted it with open arms.

Growing up in a religion based community that you begin to no longer feel a part of is a scary situation to be in. You feel torn between what you are feeling and what your religion tells you. May faced the struggle head on and decided she needed to start living the life she had always felt was there.

Now, three years later after acting upon her feelings she is in her first ever same sex relationship and could not be happier. She has slowly started to get back to her Jewish roots now that she has found her inner peace, something that three years ago seemed impossible at first glance.

May took a leap of faith and chose to live the lifestyle she knew she had to in order to be happy. Something that May has made her mission to let people know through her speeches is living an authentic life is the only choice.





Photo Credit: Courtney Ferrara



Photo Credit: Courtney Ferrara