

## **Student Army Training Corps (SATC) at Alfred University**

Over the summer of 1918, arrangements were made for the Student Army Training Corps (SATC), to come to campus. The SATC was organized by the government as a way to involve college men in the war effort. It was a precursor to the modern ROTC. Young men could spend up to three semesters in the SATC receiving a college education before being formally called up for Officers' Training School or to go to the front. This changed the culture on campus because students no longer identified themselves as members of a class that would be living and studying together for four years. Members of the SATC wore army uniforms instead of civilian clothes, ate separately in a new mess hall, and were paid as members of the army. The army also paid the \$60 tuition for the university. The college curriculum was redesigned to include new classes in military theory as well as time for drills. College students as well as members of the community were accepted to the program.<sup>1</sup>

The formation of the SATC led to an increase in the university's enrollment, from 140 in 1917-1918 to nearly two hundred men and one hundred women in the fall of 1918.<sup>2</sup> There was no large change in the number of women on campus, but having men in army uniforms temporarily did away with the tradition of freshman uniforms because it was deemed unfair to only have women labeled as new. The campus also had to change. The men's dormitory, Burdick Hall, was considered unsuited to being converted into a barracks, so Ladies' Hall, the Brick today, was remodeled to have a mess hall and a small infirmary at the government's expense. Previously, the university had had no health center.

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<sup>1</sup> *Alfred University Year Book, 1918-19*, (Alfred, NY: Sun Press, 1919). 10.

<sup>2</sup> "College Opens: Exceptionally Large Registration Due to Establishment of S.A.T.C.," *Fiat Lux*, 8 October 1918.