

# The Price of Hot Dog Day

Alfred community questions whether HDD is worth it anymore

Dylan Sammut  
Editor-In-Chief

Although Hot Dog Day proves to be the spring highlight for the Alfred community year after year, many have begun to wonder if the festival is worth it.

“It is a huge burden on staff and personnel,” John Dougherty, the Director of Public Safety, said. “Volunteer firefighters and medical services are on call 24/7 throughout the weekend, and that’s not exactly cheap.”

Hot Dog Day was created as a large community fundraiser, with events and a fair aimed at drawing in families. In fact, AU even hosts Family Weekend at the same time. However, what it has become is something entirely different. Any Alfred community member can comment on the overwhelming amount of drinking and partying that occurs throughout the weekend.

“It’s an annual weekend out of control,” a Village resident said, according to the minutes from a Village Board Meeting on May 13, 2013. “The Village needs to consider its responsibility and potential liability if a death were to occur during the event.”

To ensure the safety of the Alfred community, roughly 30 people volunteered an average of 10 hours each of active service during the weekend, including six ambulance standbys, 17 ambulance calls (fewer than 2012), and four fire calls in 2013, according to the “Village Broadside: Hot Dog Day Edition,” a press release from the Village of Alfred.

Fire Chief of A.E. Crandall Hook & Ladder Zachary Hamm was unavailable to comment, or provide cost details for HDD.

The Village paid an estimated \$1,500 to staff police officers around the clock to compensate for not only the festival and various events, but the high volume of partying during the night, according to Dougherty.



PHOTO PROVIDED | Katie Seery

Alfred students and community members compete in Alfred’s annual hotdog eating contest

There were 38 arrests last year, but oddly enough, only three were Alfred students. While most arrests were minor charges, it seems that only a small percentage of assaults were reported, according to fire and ambulance reports.

It turns out many people who were arrested last year were visiting students from other colleges. In fact, even the string of arson incidents, where a set of dumpsters were lit on fire, were committed by an outside member of the Village. It is not that AU and Alfred-State students suddenly go wild, but rather

that HDD draws in many visitor who put the safety of the Village at risk.

Many have compared HDD to the St. Patrick’s Parade that Alfred has hosted in the past, but has been discontinued to costs and misbehavior.

However, AU and A-State have done their share to prepare. On HDD weekend all members of AU’s emergency response team, including Public Safety staff, Resident Directors and Resident Assistants , are on duty. In the days leading up to HDD

weekend, residence life and the Wellness Center conduct a comprehensive Hot Dog Day safety campaign emphasizing the community and fundraising nature of the HDD festival.

But if the approach will curb alcoholic violence is yet to be seen.

“If we want Hot Dog Day to continue, we’re going to need think outside the box,” Dougherty said.

## OUTSTANDING SENIORS

Cassie Klipera & Madeleine Lomax-Vogt  
Staff Writers

Kelly McNamara, a communication studies and sociology major with a minor in women’s and gender studies from Hurleyville, NY, and Kevin O’Connor, a biology major and environmental studies minor from South Portland, Maine, have been chosen to be this year’s Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors.

The Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award recognizes one man and woman from the senior class for their achievements as active members of the Alfred community. As a reward, they receive a sizable cash award and the opportunity to speak at Commencement.

Several students were nominated for this award and eight finalists were interviewed before the two winners were chosen.

O’Connor served as the President of Biology Club and was also an active member of Green Alfred, the International Student and Scholar Organization, and the Council on Green Efforts. He also worked with Alfred’s English department as an English Language Support Assistant for students from Russia and Ukraine. O’Connor was chosen to participate in Alfred’s New Talent, and is a member of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advisory Council, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

Kevin O’Connor (right) and Kelly McNamara (left)

Cassie Klipera  
Staff writer

Alfred University creates an official Hot Dog Day t-shirt and every year third-party shirts are sold using the Hot Dog Day name.

The idea of Hot Dog Day has moved away from its charitable roots as students and outside parties continue to use the Hot Dog Day label to promote deviant behavior.

Vice President of Student Affairs Kathy Woughter outlined four reasons why the sale of unofficial t-shirts should be discouraged.

First, all proceeds from the official shirt go directly to local charities. The sale of unauthorized shirts competes with that charitable cause. Craig Arno, Director of Diversity Programming at Alfred, hopes that students recognize the shirts are sold to benefit charity and do not buy or sell unofficial shirts reducing the amount of money the school can raise.

Second, unofficial shirts are discouraged because their messages tend to “promote drinking, partying, and other disruptive behaviors that threaten the integrity and longevity of Hot Dog Day,” Woughter said.

As the identity of Hot Dog Day weekend continues to descend into a weekend of partying and drinking, the event may be cancelled altogether. People have complained about the inappropriate shirts, as children are present at the event.

Alfred University promotes Hot Dog Day as a charity and as a fun weekend of activities for the students. Arno, however, expressed concern that

the deviant behavior openly promoted by unofficial shirts only makes the true purpose of Hot Dog Day harder to defend.

Third, Hot Dog Day is an event for the village of Alfred as well as the colleges. If AU students support the school’s shirts over unofficial ones, a sense of unity within the community can emerge. In addition, by choosing official shirts, students will help discourage the behaviors advertised by the unofficial shirts.

“Hot Dog Day is a community event. We are hoping students will act and look like a community, unified in our support of local charities by buying and wearing the official shirt,” Woughter said.

The fourth reason to discourage the sale of third-party shirts involves the legality of the practice. The name “Hot Dog Day” is a registered service mark and all items with the name “Hot Dog Day” must be sold in an authorized manner. In the past, there have been cases in which unofficial shirts sporting images of beer bottles and other inappropriate images have included the “Hot Dog Day” label in addition to Alfred University’s name.

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## HDD T-SHIRTS THREATENED BY KNOCKOFFS

Third-party t-shirt vendors abuse HDD name for profit



PHOTO PROVIDED

Alfred students wearing unofficial HDD t-shirts

### OPNION

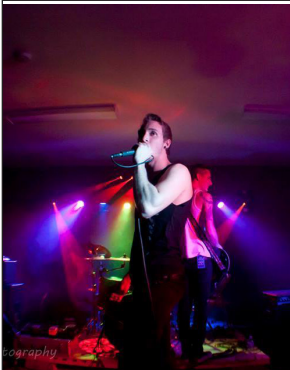


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John Ninos

PHOTO PROVIDED

***“It’s too bad that some students take days like Hot Dog Day to the extreme. But we were all young once...”***

*John Ninos Jr. resides in Alfred and owns and operates both the Collegiate Restaurant and Terra Cotta Coffeehouse with his wife Chelly Ninos.*

John Ninos  
Contributing Writer

Hot Dog Day has been a tradition in Alfred since 1972. As the weather warms up and summer quickly approaches, everyone is due for some fun and entertainment.

Many traditions in Alfred that have been taken away in the past. The students and community relish the coming of spring and the festivities of Hot Dog Day.

Hot Dog Day is a boost to the economy of Alfred. Sales in the town's shops and restaurants are the greatest of the year that weekend. Those profits come at a critical time since summer is coming and Alfred will empty out until the end of August.

I would think the lack of entertainment would deter students from choosing to attend college in Alfred, which hurts the school and community alike. Hot Dog Day provides students with a lasting memory of their college days. These good memories are what bring students back for Alumni weekends, and make them want to give back to their school later in life.

When Alfred University took away the fraternities and sororities, they took away memories which bonded the students with their school and friends. Why come back? Why donate? No one just

passes through Alfred. The memories are what keep them coming back and excited to show their Alma Mater to their children.

As someone who has grown up in this community, I have seen many activities and events come and go. Right now, you can walk down Main St. and not even believe that there are two Colleges in this community hosting 5000 students. We have many prospective students and their parents,

# KEEP THE TRADITION ALIVE

## LOCAL RESIDENT & BUSINESS OWNER SEES VALUE IN THE DOG DAY

who are visiting one of the campuses, come to our restaurant and ask, “Is this it?” “What is there to do?” “Where do you shop around here?” “What is there to do for fun?” We, as business owners, want these students to pick Alfred as much as the schools do, but it’s difficult to come up with ideas on what to do for fun in Alfred. I know that there are many things to do at either college, but it is hidden from the view of potential new students. Hot Dog Day, however, is an exception.

It’s too bad that some students take days like Hot Dog Day to the extreme. But we were all young once and can remember indulging maybe a little too much.

Hot Dog Day is one weekend of the year that is fun, both for the community and the colleges. Years ago there was a St. Patrick’s day celebration. There was a parade, open houses, and great memories. It was eliminated because a few kids thought it was funny to streak during the parade. It was a fad! Let’s not lose Hot Dog Day because of the few bad choices of some students. Those kinds of things will always happen. Furthermore, we shouldn’t forget the money the event raises for charity.

It’s easy and weak to just do away with things that take time and may be difficult to accomplish. Why not think of ways to make it better? I have been to every Hot Dog Day. I miss the parade, but I love the excitement of the weekend, as do many members of the Alfred community.

We are a college town. Our economy is the students. They are our customers. They support all of us. Let’s keep them coming.

***“It’s easy and weak to just do away with things that take time and may be difficult to accomplish. Why not think of ways to make it better?”***

# STUDENTS CAN SAVE THE DAY

## AU ADMIN WEARY THAT HDD DAY WILL SUCCUMB TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCES

Kathy Woughter  
Contributing Writer

“(This festival) has been a boon to (the town) as it attracts more and more visitors...It has also created a perceptible tension between locals, those attending on business, and drunken revelers simply looking for a good time.”

“There’s no evidence that (he) came for any reason but to party.”

“We interviewed the founders of (the festival), who said the problem is not the registrants. It’s the people who come only to party.”

Hot Dog Day quotes?

No, these were from recent articles and podcasts about South By Southwest (SXSW), a huge and growing music festival in Austin, TX. After some car accidents this year resulted in multiple fatalities, cries to end SXSW led to larger discussions of the benefits of the festival to the communities it serves.

Alfred is not Austin, but the issues are similar. Hot Dog Day should be a tradition that our community looks forward to each year, and one that alumni look back on with pride. We enjoy the hours and time spent planning events, organizing concerts, working with local bands, giving AU artists a chance to sell their work, and so much more. We don’t mind the countless hours spent on safety preparations. But we do mind the ambulance transports, the angry

neighbors, the summonses to Village Board meetings afterward, and the disrespect shown mostly by people coming from outside Alfred with the sole goal of finding a party.

Who’s to blame for bad behavior: AU, ASC, alumni, or friends? Mostly none of the above. The majority of arrests, ambulance transports and write-ups during Hot Dog Day weekend are not AU students; they seem to be people with no affiliation to Alfred, and they don’t care what impact they have on AU’s relationship with the Village of Alfred. This is too bad, because they have the potential to ruin a great tradition for all of us.

We can hardly stop people from coming into our village, and we welcome visitors who want to go to the concert and support our businesses. But you can stop them from entering your off-campus apartments, and you can stop them from coming into the residence halls. People coming into Alfred just for the party scene don’t know you, and they don’t care who gets arrested or hurt, but they will certainly take advantage of your open door if you let them. Then we all have to clean up the mess. A community is made up of individuals, and every single AU student has to choose to impact Hot Dog Day weekend for better, not for worse.

I know people look forward to Hot Dog Day all year, as they should. We have years of evidence that almost all AU students can figure out how to balance fun with responsibility on Hot Dog Day. It’s not rocket science. Hot Dog Day has so many benefits – irreplaceable school spirit, \$10,000/year for local nonprofits, great business for our Main Street vendors, a spring homecoming for alumni, fun for hundreds of local kids. I want to see it continue, and I hope AU students do too.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Kathy Woughter

*Kathy Woughter serves as the Vice President for Student Affairs for AU*

# FIAT LUX

Dylan Sammut  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Raffi Jansezian  
MANAGING EDITOR

Zachary Shaw  
Madeleine Lomax-Vogt  
Cassie Klipera  
Cheyenne Rainford  
Jordan Loux

Art and Layout Editor  
Content Editor  
Staff Writer  
Staff Writer  
Staff Writer

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# IT ISN’T ABOUT THE CONCERT

## CONCERT NOT NECESSARILY A HOT DOG TRADITION

Dan Napolitano  
Contributing Writer

The annual “large act” concert is often mistakenly referred to as a “Hot Dog Day tradition” and this expectation can sometimes be a detriment to the entire process. With college programming boards across the country seeking bands for their spring weekends along with spring festivals such as Coachella vying for top talent, the competition for nationally-known acts drives up costs and limits availability of acts in late April and early May.

Over the past ten years, Alfred University’s Student Activities Board (SAB) has dedicated their “large act” budget to Hot Dog Day weekend five times. While over eighty-percent of surveyed students prefer the concert on this weekend, getting one-hundred students (just five percent) to volunteer to work the show proves difficult each year.

For many years, SAB intentionally avoided placing big music concerts on the same weekend as Hot Dog Day. Back in 1993, comedians Adam Sandler and Kevin Nealon were considered a huge undertaking to coincide with Hot Dog Day – but indoor comedy shows are logistically simpler and more manageable than rock concerts. From 1994 until 2006, music concerts ranging from Black Eyed Peas to Bare Naked Ladies were held indoors and during the colder winter months of January, February and March. It is also important to note that all of the now-famous acts were up-and-coming when they played Alfred. For example, Maroon 5 was a small \$500 opener for pop pianist Vanessa Carlton.

In 2007, student Lee Breck proposed two bold moves – an outdoor concert to be held on Hot Dog Day. Gym Class Heroes, a band with a rising hit song

called “Cupid’s Chokehold,” was booked at a fairly reasonable price and that song would hit #1 during the week before Hot Dog Day. The Monday prior to the 2007 concert, local schools were closed due to a snowstorm and an outdoor concert looked like a foolish choice. By Saturday, temperatures had risen to the high seventies and the first outdoor large concert was attended by over two thousand people.

The SAB agreed that AU’s concert should not be held hostage by that weekend and the increased interests competing for acts. In 2008, watermelon-smashing comedian Gallagher was moved indoors due to thunderstorms, disappointing many students hoping for another outdoor show. In 2009, the Bamboozle Road show featuring We The Kings and Forever the Sickest Kids was another rare warm outdoor show.

The urge to diversify funds and create fall and winter concerts resulted in smaller shows the next two years with a Fleetwood Mack tribute band outdoors (2010) and hip hop icon Ghostface Killah in Davis Gym (2011) occurring on Hot Dog Day. These smaller shows led to some legendary bookings during the rest of the year including Architecture in Helsinki, Gayngs featuring Bon Iver, and Dr. Dog.

The past two year’s saw a return of “large acts” to the Hot Dog Day weekend – but a move to Friday night due to concerns over recruiting enough volunteers for a Saturday show. In 2012, the first co-sponsored concert between Alfred University and Alfred State College used the parking lot behind Carnegie Hall to host OAR for nearly 2,000 attendees. Last year, OKGO’s laser and confetti-enhanced concert required an indoor setting so the outdoor concept was abandoned.

This year’s concert is adding a few new twists to past successes. The six-band / six-hour format is a completely new challenge, giving audience members a festival experience rather than a three-hour show. Food trucks and amusement park swings are also being brought into the outdoor venue to keep people entertained. A special over- 21 tent is being created for seniors and parents to relax and still watch the show. Splitting the budget between six very diverse acts was the greatest challenge. AU student Colby Cotton sought feedback, listened to hundreds of suggestions, and made more inquiries and offers than an outside observer would ever realize.

The impossible task of choosing an act which pleases everyone is best saved for another article but the date and anticipated weather climate of the concert is an equally critical component. The students involved with SAB are under no obligation to place next year’s concert on April 25, 2015 (yes, the date is already set) but may instead choose to produce a fall or winter concert. They also have the option to cut their budget into smaller shows scattered throughout the year.

The success of this year’s concert will be measured not only in attendance but by volunteers willing to sacrifice their own Hot Dog Day to produce the show. There is always room for more security guards, ticket rippers, and stage builders. Those interested are encouraged to reach out to Colby Cotton or fill out the volunteer survey at www.hotdogday.org.

Note: The author serves as Director of Student Activities, advising the student-led SAB and their concert endeavors since 1994.





## OUTSTANDING SENIORS

FROM PAGE ONE

McNamara has been involved in the Women's Leadership Academy (WLA), as well as the Gary Horowitz Leadership program and the Alfred University Honors Program. She was also on the AU Basketball team her first two years at Alfred and the Track team during the Spring semester of her freshman year. Her involvement in athletics influenced her capstone project for WLA.

McNamara is currently the president of the leadership honors society Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) and just finished her term as the Student Senate Diversity Director. McNamara was also recently invited

to join AU's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Gamma Mu.

During her term as Diversity Director McNamara became heavily involved in the new and growing Institute for Cultural Unity (ICU) here at Alfred and has become an invaluable member.

"The support is unreal here," McNamara said. She expressed that she wouldn't have had so many opportunities if she wasn't at AU

Although she unsure what to say for her Commencement Speech, McNamara affirmed "whatever it is, it's going to be authentic, and will come from the heart."

## T-SHIRTS

FROM PAGE ONE

Two attempts to make inappropriate shirts have already been addressed this year. Although the school cannot stop the production of these shirts, they can order a cease and desist issue on the use of the Hot Dog label and Alfred University's name.

Additionally, according to the vendor agreement, only official Main

St. vendors may sell clothing using the "Hot Dog Day" name.

This year, Hot Dog Day's theme is the Hunger Games. The official shirt is black with a gold symbol of the mockingjay pin on the back that reads "May the Dogs Be Ever in Your Favor," while the front has small hot dog day logo.

Although it is impossible to stop the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Alfred students wearing official HDD t-shirts

creation of these inappropriate shirts, students do not have to purchase them. People should be mindful of the intent of Hot Dog Day as well as why the university sells shirts, and they should support the university and charity over private parties.

## RESPONDING TO HARLEM CHAOS AU ALUM OVERSEES EAST HARLEM RELIEF EFFORT AFTER GAS LEAK EXPLOSION

Raffi Jansezian  
Managing Editor

A gas-explosion leveled two 5-story buildings killing 8 people and wounding more than 70 others in East Harlem, NYC on the morning of March 12, 2014. At the front of relief efforts is Alfred University alumnus Matthew Washington.

"When a tragedy like this happens, a lot of people want to help," Washington said.

Washington, an Alfred University alum (class of 2004), is the Community Board Director of East Harlem.

The explosion at 1644 and 1664 Park Ave. in Manhattan occurred at 9:31 a.m. Relief efforts are underway, with community members and rescue workers working tirelessly to help all affected by the explosion. Washington is overseeing efforts to ensure that the more than 250 residents of the buildings are taken care of.

"East Harlem is a rich community of people all with different backgrounds, built by different people coming to East Harlem and calling it home for generations," Washington said.

Community efforts have been instrumental in helping those affected by the tragedy. The Red Cross set up temporary housing. Neighbors and property owners opened their doors to the victims left homeless.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Matthew Washington

## COLLEGE WEBSITE FAILS AU

“WHAT WILL THEY LEARN?” WEBSITE GIVES AU POOR MARKS FOR ACADEMICS

Madeleine Lomax-Vogt  
Staff Writer

Alfred University's academics are not accurately reflected in the online college ranking site "What Will They Learn?" which ranks schools on their core requirements.

"I think we have a broad base of general education requirements," Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Lou Lichtman said. "We have what all liberal arts schools should require."

"What Will They Learn?" ranks schools based on their core curriculum requirements. For a school to receive an "A," it must require that its students take 6-7 core subjects that correspond exactly with the site's requirements. Core subjects include composition, literature, foreign language, U.S. government or history, economics, mathematics, and natural or physical science.

AU received an "F," as the site says that AU only requires that its students take science.

AU's CLAS, though, does require that students take a broad range of courses. The college has nine requirements that students must complete. Students must take 32 credit hours chosen from the "Areas of Knowledge" which are spread out over six attributes, and students must show that they have proficient skills in written communication, foreign language and quantitative reasoning.

"What Will They Learn?" does not consider many of the required classes at AU legitimate requirements because students can test out of classes or bring in credits that satisfy the requirements.

"Why should students be required to take Writing I if they don't need it?" Lichtman said. "Testing out [of classes] allows students more time for their other

work."

Additionally, "What Will They Learn?" has strict requirements.

"[What Will They Learn?] might require course "x," while we might have course "xy." AU Provost Rick Stephens said. Websites that rate schools have become more prevalent over the last few years.

"Students and families are trying to find a way to measure the value of higher education," Stephens said. "They are seductive to people in times when resources are tight."

Colleges are ranked based on two competing models: The first model ranks schools based upon input values, such as the number of faculty with PhDs and the number of books in a library, while the second ranks schools based on the output of a school which is determined by whether a college is meeting its goals.

"What Will They Learn?" is based on the first ranking model. It looks at what courses AU has to offer, but it does not look any further than that.

"Their ratings are incredibly limited in what they claim to tell consumers," Stephens said.

"They're going to look at the whole picture," Stephens said

"What Will They Learn?" also gives very low scores to some of the top-ranked liberal arts colleges in the country. Williams College, the top ranked Liberal Arts college in the country by U.S. News, received a "D" from the site. They require that students take at least three courses in each of their education divisions, "Languages and the Arts," "Social Studies" and "Science and Mathematics."

AU's requirements are similar to Williams, and AU's decision to give students flexibility in their class choices means that students have the opportunity to learn from a diverse pool of subjects.

Ultimately, "What Will They Learn?" give students a way to look at schools, but it only gives a very small piece of the picture.

"I'm pretty dismissive of a thinly veneered snapshots," Stephens said. "They have no real knowledge about these schools."

## OPINION: WELLNESS CENTER LIMITATIONS LACKS HOURS AND NECESSARY STAFF

Madeleine Lomax-Vogt  
Staff Writer

As someone who has gone through a myriad of medical problems this semester, I have become quite familiar with Alfred University's Wellness Center. The Wellness Center, located at the south end of campus, is a place for students to go for somewhat minor medical concerns, like the flu or testing. Students may make an appointment or walk in for care during their hours of operation.

I can personally attest to the Wellness Center's usefulness on campus. Whenever I have to go there I am treated with respect and kindness and other students have the same view.

"The staff there is very friendly and it's convenient to have a center that's so close to campus and free to use," sophomore Nicole Zanetti said.

The staff clearly loves their jobs and they want to help students. However, with some of my more recent and more severe medical problems some considerable concerns about the Wellness Center have come to light. It feels like students can only have

a medical problem during the very restricted hours the the Wellness Center is open. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m and is closed from 12:00p.m. to 1p.m for lunch. The village of Alfred does offer free transport by ambulance to Hornell or Wellsville at no charge but only for life threatening injuries.

How are students with no means of transportation, myself included, supposed to get medical help for minor concerns when the Wellness Center is closed during the school day? What are we supposed to do on the weekends? I personally do not want to have to ask my friends to take me to the doctor in Hornell on a Saturday because there is no way to receive medical care on campus and there are no After Hours or Urgent Care facilities located in the Alfred area.

The Counseling Center, which is part of the Wellness Center, offers students a 24-hour number that will connect you to a counselor on call if students need help immediately. Why not offer something similar

to students in need of medical help? The Wellness Center could keep its restricted hours but give students a number to call if the have a concern. A student could talk to a doctor or nurse about their concerns and make recommendations.

Additionally, it would be nice for students to have a place were they can fill simple prescriptions on the weekend. The Alfred Pharmacy is closed Saturday and Sunday and students without a car cannot go to a pharmacy in Hornell. Cost permitting, a small, basic pharmacy that could fill some prescriptions, like antibiotics or birth control, would benefit many students.

The Wellness Center is an extremely important asset to Alfred University and the good it does for students should not go unnoticed. They could, however, do more to help students on the weekends and after hours.



PHOTO EDITOR | ZACHARY SHAW

AU'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER



# BACKSTAGE ROYALTY ROCKS THE KNIGHT CLUB

## ALFRED WELCOMES METAL

Jordan Loux  
Staff Writer

On April 4, NJ based band Backstage Royalty played the Knight Club in the Powell Campus Center to a small crowd.

The opening act, Through The Crowd, had a similar sound to Blink-182. The set had a shaky start when feedback blew through the speakers making everything else difficult to hear. According to the band, there wasn't time for a soundcheck before the show began. Luckily they were able to fix the issues for the next song, a cover of Taylor Swift's "I Knew You Were Trouble" with a rock twist to it.

They didn't win over the crowd, but what they lacked in talent they made up

for in enthusiasm.

Backstage Royalty took over the crowd with an interesting opening. They began with an auto-tuned version of "The Smurfs" theme song then broke into heavy metal. Recordings were used in the band's music to great effect, including using them to keep the crowd entertained during interludes.

With a Linkin Park meets Green Day feel, Backstage Royalty was able to shift between punk-pop and heavy metal with ease. The headliner took over the show throwing the opener, Through The Crowd, aside. Backstage Royalty had high energy and a lot of enthusiasm, at times they seemed almost over-enthusiastic while they pandered to the crowd.

There were a few people who worked with the band and they tried to start

a mosh-pit in the front of the crowd, twice. During one song the band tried and but failed to get the crowd to chant along.

The crowd as bewildered when Backstage Royalty decided to end their set with an expertly executed cover of Maroon 5's "Payphone" featuring Wiz Khalifa.

Although it had a slow start, it was a good night for fans of punk and heavy metal. Although it was unfortunate that more students didn't come to see the bands perform.

Through The Crowd is currently trying to attend the 2014 Warped Tour Battle of the Bands. If you want to listen to some of their music and vote for them, check them out at <http://warped.battleofthebands.com/u/Throughthecrowd>.



PHOTO PROVIDED  
The band Backstage Royalty



PHOTO PROVIDED  
The band Sun club

# SUN CLUB LIGHTS UP ALFRED

Dylan Sammut  
Editor-In-Chief

Sun Club, an upcoming band from Maryland, delivered a wildly entertaining show when they performed at the Terra Cotta Coffeehouse on April 17.

Although it was a relatively short performance, Sun Club drew in a modest crowd, and the band's visible energy was something to behold. It was rare not to find the bassist or guitarist jumping and hopping around throughout the entire song. It was almost exhausting just watching them.

The drummer played with such force and speed, he nearly splintered his drumsticks. He strongly resembled the Muppet, "Animal" with his friendly attitude and crazy drumming. And no, that's not an exaggeration.

But it was difficult to decipher the lyrics over the incredible volume of the instruments. The upstairs floor of the Terra Cotta isn't exactly the biggest venue for a band, and their speakers were at full blast. It became hard to tell where one song ended and another began. This left some of the songs feeling long and dragged out, especially in parts where the words were more critical for the audience

Another notable attribute of the band was their choice of instruments. It's not common among bands to have someone screaming into a microphone while playing the xylophone or to have a drummer playing two-ton floor toms alongside a full drum kit. The added instruments were not just filler; they provided plenty of dynamic and unique attitude to each song.

Any member of the audience would welcome Sun Club back to Alfred. Perhaps we might see them at the next Hot Dog Day performance.

# OUT WITH DAVIS, IN WITH NEW MUSEUM

## CONSTRUCTION FOR NEW CERAMICS MUSEUM WHERE DAVIS GYM ONCE STOOD

Jordan Loux  
Staff Writer

A fter years of planning and waiting, Davis Gym was taken down to make way for a new Ceramic Art Museum.

"This project was conceived long before I came to this University," Alfred University President Charles Edmondson, said.

The building of a Ceramic Art Museum on campus has been in the planning stages since the 1980s. However, the plan was abandoned because it was deemed too expensive at the time, and there was no place to build the museum.

According to Edmondson, South Hall was originally considered to be demolished to make way for the Ceramic Art Museum in the 1990s. The money to build the Ceramic Art Museum did not come until much later when Dr. Marlin Miller, a University trustee, decided to fund the project.

"Davis Gym was a hard building to maintain safely," Edmondson explained. "The wiring was faulty and trying to fix it was a hazard because of the asbestos commonly found in old buildings like Davis."

Before Davis could be shut down, Edmondson decided to see how the gym was used. He gathered information and showed the Board of Trustees that University clubs were using Davis Gym.

"The project was put on hold until Davis could be replaced," Edmondson explained.

When the new Health and Wellness Center was completed this January as a viable replacement, it reopened the plan to demolish Davis.

However, many clubs are angry about losing Davis Gym, feeling they had been pushed out too early.

The board gave reason for their quick demolition.

"If we waited until after commencement in May, building the museum would have cost about a half-million dollars more," Edmondson said.

He said that he also plans to compensate clubs such as the Extreme Sports and Medieval clubs, since the New Health and Wellness Center will not be sufficient to house their meetings and events.

While it is easy to be skeptical, since on the surface it appears that the building of the Ceramic Art Museum is unnecessary, there is more of a reason to it's existence than just tourist revenue.

"This museum will hold a connection to Alfred University," Professor of Ceramics Wayne Higby said. "The University has had a ceramic arts program for over a century."

Higby is heavily involved in the plans for the new museum, and explained why the museum is necessary to AU.

One of the issues that students saw with the upcoming museum is its purpose, since there is already a ceramic museum on the second floor of Binns-Merrill Hall.

"There are two museums that share the second floor of Binns-Merrill - The Ceramic Art Museum and The Inamori Museum," Higby said.

He also made clear that moving to Davis would give the collection of The Ceramic Art Museum more room to expand.

The museum will be much more than just another tourist trap, and will be important to the University, even for students who are not in the ceramic arts program, Higby said.

"The project is aimed to educational aspects of the medium as well as the

educational mission of the University," he explained.

The main purpose of the Ceramic Art Museum is to use the medium of ceramic to understand how our culture has evolved, and how it defines us now.

"Imagine a social science major decides to check out the museum," Higby said as an example. "He runs into his professor and they start a discussion about some ancient ceramic plates they see on display. Soon they are talking about the ways that the style of the plates show deep psychological insights into the culture that they were made in, and then the ideology of art making."

Along with historical pieces, the graduate-thesis work of students of the Alfred University ceramic arts program will be put on display to show the evolution of culture through ceramics.

"The work of our students

will be placed side by side with Ming sculptures from the Twelfth century," Higby said.

Along with that, all papers written by the students will be archived in Scholes Library.

Now that the planning is finally behind them, the contractors can finally begin building the Ceramic Art Museum.

"It's had many starts and stops, but we're finally in the building phase and we're all very excited," said Physical Plant Executive Director Michael Neiderbach, talking about what the completed museum will be like.

The museum will have two floors with the main gallery on the first floor. There will also be a classroom that will give students hands on experience on how to run a museum. The lower floor will hold the many ceramic pieces and collections that will be rotated for exhibits.

There are also plans to make the museum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, according to the U.S. Green Building Council.

"The museum is going to have a geothermal heating system and other green building components," Neiderbach stated.

A new access road will also be paved along the south side of McClane Gym to make getting to the Ceramic Art Museum easier, according to Neiderbch.

The Ceramic Art Museum will be completed by the summer of 2015.

"Soon we'll have a collection of the best of the best of ceramic art, and it will be right across the street," Higby said.



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