

## **Phi Beta Kappa chapter inducts 19 new members**

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"Take pride, take real pride, in your accomplishments," Dr. Susan Strong, associate provost and president of Alfred University's Alpha Gamma of New York Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, told 19 new members of what is the nation's oldest honorary society. Founded in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa is considered to be among the most prestigious of honor societies, and is dedicated "to the ideal of excellence in the liberal arts and sciences." To be eligible to have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, Colleges of Liberal Arts & Sciences must meet the society's rigorous academic standards and be approved by the membership. There are fewer than 300 colleges nationwide that have been granted a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. Candidates for Phi Beta Kappa at Alfred University are nominated for membership by those at the University who "have a good opinion of your intellect, your moral character and your record of high attainment," Strong explained. The candidates are then voted upon by the full membership of the chapter. "Congratulations, initiates," said Dr. Ben Howard, professor English and a member of the Alpha Gamma of New York chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. "Many are nominated, but few are chosen.." He reminded the new members that "your attainments are your own, but many people had a hand" in helping them achieve. Howard read his poem, "Expecting Nothing," that he had written to mark the induction of the first new members in the AU chapter a year ago. The new members are: Sarah Christina Bittel, a senior fine arts major in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. She is the daughter of Donald and Barbara Bittel of Cato, NY, and is a graduate of Cato-Meridian High School. Emma L. Buckthal, a senior who has majors in history and philosophy. A graduate of Cascadilla School, she is the daughter of Elaine Buckthal of Drybrook Road, Barton, NY. Sarah Jennifer Coffey, who completed her degree requirements in December 2004 with a major in history. She is the daughter of Steve and Kathy Coffey of Autumn Circle, Kennebunk, ME, and is a graduate of Kennebunk High School. Jamie Marie Coombs, a senior English major who is a graduate of Essex High School. She is the daughter of Clark and Vicki Coombs of Georgia Manor Drive, Milton, VT. Albert F. Fassbender III, a junior who is majoring in French and who is abroad for the semester. He is the son of Dorothy and Albert F. Fassbender Jr. of Clarke Road, Hope, RI. He is a graduate of Scituate High School. Kathryn Lynn Goetschius, a junior engineering major who has a minor in chemistry. A graduate of Wellsville, NY, High School, Kathryn is the daughter of George and Sue Goetschius of Meadowbrook Court, Wellsville. Emily Ann Guth, a senior who is majoring in fine arts. The daughter of Michael J. and Barbara Guth of Wyllis Street, Oil City, PA, she is a graduate of Oil City Area Senior High School. Nicole Estelle Haahr, a senior English major. She is the daughter of Peter Haahr of Glenmary Drive, Oswego, NY, and the late Ann Haahr. She is a graduate of Tioga Central High School. Deanna Linn Kowal, a senior sociology major. She is the daughter of Denise A. Campagno of Main Street, Hampton, CT, and is a graduate of Parish Hill High School. Katherine Jean McSweeney, a senior sociology major. She is the daughter of Joseph and Janet McSweeney of State Route 38 in Auburn, NY, and is a graduate of Saratoga Springs Senior High School. Gina Marie Morehouse, a senior elementary education major and a graduate of Friendship Central School. Emily Rose Pimpinella, a senior psychology major. She is the daughter of David and Margaret Pimpinella of Middle Road, Owego, and is a graduate of Owego Free Academy. Joshua Ryan Pruyn, a senior with a double major in history and political science. He is the son of Lansing P. and Lori Pruyn of Witmer Road, North Tonawanda, and is a graduate of Niagara-Wheatfield Senior High School. Andrew J. Purcell, a junior English major. He is the son of Timothy and Eileen Purcell of Old Orchard Lane in York, PA, and is a graduate of York Suburban Senior High School. Elizabeth Ann Sanger, a junior chemistry major. She is the daughter of Kurt and Laurel Sanger of Crestway Lane. Rochester, and is graduate of Greece Arcadia High School. Skye Nathaniel Schiefer, a senior philosophy major. He is the son of Brian and Leni Schiefer of Monterey Drive, Hazlet, NJ, and is a graduate of High Technology High School. Jacob Jerrold Sprague, a senior chemistry major. He is the son of Peggy A. Sprague of West Center Street in Johnsonburg, PA, and Lawrence E. Sprague of R.R. 2, also in Johnsonburg. He is a graduate of Johnsonburg Area High School. Beth Janelle Stone, a senior English major. She is a graduate of Gilbert School, and is a daughter of John and Marianne Stone of Danbury Quarter Road, Winsted, CT. Matthew David Williams, a senior who has a double major in chemistry and Spanish. He is the son of David and Cynthia Williams of Stonecrest Drive, Brook Park, OH, and is a graduate of Saint Edward High School.