

## Message from President Edmondson

4/10/08

As most of you know by now, the gun in question in today's (April 8) incident turned out to be a toy gun being used in a game of tag called "Zombies versus Humans." We had a report from a credible source that a young man had been spotted with a gun on campus. The report was taken seriously, as it should have been, and we implemented our emergency response procedures. Fortunately, the gun was a fake, but the response was appropriate given the potential severity of the situation. We will conduct a debriefing early tomorrow to review our responses and to identify and incorporate the lessons of this experience. Four general comments seem in order, though, even at this stage. First, let me commend all those who responded to the situation on campus Tuesday afternoon. Emergency personnel, including our own Public Safety office, the Alfred Village Police Department, Allegany County Sheriff's Department, New York State Police, Alfred State College University Police and Alfred fire department, responded immediately and did an incredible job of assuring the safety of our faculty, staff and students. Second, I would also like to thank all the faculty, staff and students for their calm, patience and understanding. Had this been a more serious incident than it turned out to be, I have every confidence that their poise would have enabled us to maintain the highest level of safety possible. Third, we learned some positive things from the incident, and one of those was that our emergency response plan works well. That said, we also can identify aspects that need improvement. For example, our internal communications depend upon "E2Campus," a text-message alert system we implemented two years ago. It worked very well today in notifying people of the emergency. We did learn, however, that we need to work harder to have all faculty, staff and students register for the system. I would also observe that we underestimated how quickly the press would descend upon Alfred and how they would actually complicate our attending to an emergency.