

AU voice students attend regional competition

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Five Alfred University students were among those participating in the Central New York Finger Lakes Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) student auditions at Fredonia State College earlier this month. Each student performed two or three songs for a panel of three judges and was given comments about their performance, as well as a numerical assessment, said Dr. Luanne Crosby, associate professor of voice and chorus in AU's Division of Performing Arts. "Although the focus of the event is on constructive criticism of vocal technique and musicianship, there is also a competitive aspect of the festival," said Crosby. Schools participating, in addition to Alfred University, included Fredonia State College, Ithaca College, Syracuse University, and Nazareth College. Junior John Kalish advanced to the final round and was ranked among the top five vocalists in his category. Kalish, a graduate of Newburgh Free Academy, is the son of John and Jeanne Kalish of Roosevelt Place, Newburgh. Other AU students participating included: Barbara Bickford, a sophomore from Milford, CT. Her parents are James and Theresa Bickford of Platt Street. She is a graduate of Hill Regional Career Magnet High School. Elizabeth Groff, a senior history major. Daughter of Robert and Joan Groff of Ransberry Avenue, East Stroudsburg, PA, she is a graduate of Notre Dame High School. Jennifer Pors, a junior in the School of Art & Design. A graduate of Fleetwood Area High School, she is a daughter of William and Suan Pors of Somerset Street, Fleetwood, PA. Nathaniel Smith, a freshman theater major who was graduated from Beverly Hills High School. He is a son of L'Tanya L. Portlock of Los Angeles, CA. Kalish, Bickford and Smith are Crosby's students, and Pors and Groff study with Rebecca Weaver, an adjunct instructor of voice. Kate Arrasmith, a high school student who studies with Crosby, also participated, as did Linda Staiger, former music teacher at Alfred-Almond Central School, who studies with former AU instructor Betty Giles. Staiger placed first in her division.