

One AU Student Critically Injured in Early-Morning Apartment Fire

5/11/00

Alfred, NY -- One Alfred University senior was critically injured in an early-morning fire at an apartment house at 42 S. Main St. in the Village of Alfred. Eight students were treated for smoke inhalation and released from St. James Hospital in Hornell. Three others did not require treatment. Transferred by Mercy Flight to Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester was Andrew Bartholomew, 22, a senior business major from South Butler, NY. The Intensive Care Unit at Strong lists him in guarded condition, suffering from smoke inhalation and burns. No additional information was available this afternoon. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Bartholomew of South Butler, were at the hospital, along with the Rev. Laurie DeMott, interfaith advisor for AU's Division of Student Affairs. Treated at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell for smoke inhalation and released were: Korey Abbott, 21, Patchogue, NY, junior mechanical engineering major. Tera Hamilton, 21, Meadville, PA, senior psychology major. Alison Huftalen, 22, Cheektowaga, NY, senior, fine arts major. Michael Kenefick, 23, Plantsville, CT, senior ceramic engineering and materials science major. Karen Mannella, 22, Utica, NY, senior ceramic engineering major. Scott Muir, 21, Liverpool, NY, senior accounting major. Ross Newcomb, 25, South Glens Falls, NY, a first-year graduate student in ceramic engineering and materials science. Karolyn Reddy, 21, Fayetteville, NY, senior English major. Not requiring hospital treatment were: Julie Noone, 21, Falls Church, VA, senior fine arts major. Meghan Bunnell, 21, Waynesville, OH, junior fine arts/performing arts major. Penelope Rakov, 22, Manlius, NY, senior art and design major. Bartholomew, Huftalen, Muir, Reddy, Noone, Rakov, Kenefick and Mannella are all scheduled to receive their degrees during Saturday's commencement ceremony. "Eleven of the students are fine. We've met with all of them; they're fine; they're doing well under the circumstances," said Gerald Brody, vice president of Student Affairs and dean of students, who was at the hospital this morning with the fire victims. "I really commend the A.E. Crandall Hook and Ladder Co. and the Alfred Rescue Squad for their actions this morning," said Brody. "Without their prompt response to the fire scene and immediate treatment of the victims, this could have been a much more serious tragedy." The Student Affairs Crisis Team, including Brody; Sue Smith, associate dean of students; and Dr. Norman Pollard, director of counseling, met with fire victims this morning. A campus-wide meeting for remaining students, faculty and staff who have questions, concerns or simply want to talk is planned for 10 a.m. Friday. With commencement scheduled for Saturday, most underclassmen have already returned to their homes, but graduating seniors and some student workers remain on campus. The University is replacing caps and gowns for those students who will be graduating Saturday. "We've made arrangements for food, housing, and transportation for those who need it," said Brody. He also commended Allegany County Red Cross Executive Director Judy Kosciwicz of Wellsville, who was at the University this morning to provide the students with vouchers that would allow them to obtain clothing, and to provide other necessities. A team of Allegany County fire investigators was at the apartment house, owned by Carl Luger, this morning, trying to determine the cause of the fire. While some parts of the house suffered serious damage, other parts sustained only smoke and water damage. Students living in those portions of the apartment house were allowed back into the structure about noon today to begin recovering their possessions.