

Alumni plan Finger Lakes Tour prior to Reunion '06

2/08/06

For the second year in a row, a three-day, two-night excursion through New York's Finger Lakes region will be held June 6 - 8, just prior to Alfred University's annual Reunion Weekend June 9 - 11. Once again, Christine Kulp, a 1971 alumna of Alfred University and president of the Alumni Association/Alumni Council, and husband, Bruce Kulp, who was named honorary alumnus in 2000, will be the hosts for the excursion planned by AU's Alumni Council and Office of Alumni and Community Relations. The first trip held in June '05 was a great success with 19 alumni and friends participating. "The trip was exquisitely planned. The restaurants and accommodations were great and the wineries and tastings were fun. There was plenty of comfort cushion between events/places, not too much time spent riding on the bus, and the bus driver was excellent," said Steve Levine, a 1961 graduate of AU. "Trip participants commented over and over how much they enjoyed each other and stories shared about Alfred. To me, that was the most valuable part of trip," said Chris Kulp. "This year's trip will be terrific," said Mark Shardlow, executive director of Operations for the University Relations division. "It offers alumni a chance to spend more time in our beautiful region when they come for Reunion Weekend. The trip package will be very attractive to alumni and friends that wish to join us," said Shardlow. The theme of the trip is Mansions, Museums, Waterfalls, Lakes and Wines of New York State. It begins on June 6th with a gourmet breakfast in Alfred, followed by a lunch cruise on Keuka Lake aboard the vintage Esperanza Rose. Next comes a visit to New York's most awarded winery, Dr. Konstantin Frank's Vinifera Wine Cellar, high above Keuka Lake. Afterwards, travelers will enjoy more spectacular lake views during a reception and dinner at the Esperanza Mansion, a meticulously renovated Greek Revival structure built in 1838. Travelers will overnight at the beautiful Canandaigua Inn on the Lake, said to be the finest waterfront resort in the heart of the Finger Lakes. The second day of the trip includes a breakfast buffet followed by visit to one of America's most extensively preserved country estates surviving from the Victorian era, Sonnenberg Mansion and Gardens, built in 1887 and located in Canandaigua. Later, lunch at Richardson's Canal House Inn, Bushnell's Basin, will prove interesting as this structure, built in 1818, is said to be the oldest original inn on the Erie Canal. After a canal-side lunch, travelers will enjoy a visit to Rochester's George Eastman House and Gardens where they will have a mansion and garden tour or gallery talk and museum visit. This landmark 50-room Colonial Revival-style mansion with original furnishings and formal gardens was home to George Eastman, inventor and founder of Eastman Kodak Company. The photography and film museum is said to offer millions of photographic masterpieces, movie classics and technological wonders created during the past 160 years. A visit to Rochester's High Falls and Brown's Race area will follow and then a special wine tasting dinner at Inn on Broadway. Travelers will overnight at a Hampton Inn in the area. The final day begins with a breakfast buffet. This will be followed by a guided tour and breathtaking views of the gorge, three waterfalls and dam at Letchworth State Park, renowned as "Canyon of the East." As this is a very large park, a guide will step on board the bus for a discussion of park history, geology and the Mt. Morris dam. The bus will stop at strategic locations in the park for travelers to disembark for short periods to view the sights and take pictures. Lunch will be right in the park at the historic Glen Iris Inn, built to overlook the falls in 1828. After lunch travelers will return to Alfred for a visit to Alfred University's new Equestrian Center for a tour and discussion of Equestrian Studies. The trip will end with a gourmet dinner on campus. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Alfred University Office of Alumni and Community Relations, 607 871 2144, or by e-mailing alumni@alfred.edu You may also call tour host, Christine Kulp '71 at 585-473-8397 or contact her at ckulp@frontiernet.net. You can register for the tour through the Office of Alumni and Community Relations. Watch for additional information at <http://www.alfred.edu/alu...> Please note that the itinerary is subject to change. Space is limited, so those planning to take the tour are asked to sign up as soon as possible.