

Alfred Steppas take first place in regional competition

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The Alfred Steppas, a dance troupe consisting of Alfred University and Alfred State College students, was awarded first place in at the first annual "Step It Up" competition hosted by Daemen College of Buffalo, NY. The competition, held on Saturday, Feb. 28, featured six different troupes from various colleges throughout western New York. The Alfred Steppas were awarded a trophy as well as a \$500 cash prize. Steppin' is a form of dance that emphasizes the stomping of hands and feet to create a rhythmic beat. The Alfred Steppas program was founded by Alfred University student Sheree N. Johnson in 2000 and eventually welcomed members from Alfred State College. The Steppas currently have over 20 members from both institutions and have been awarded Alfred University's "Entertainers of the Year" for the past three years. Johnson, who now serves as the advisor of the group, said "We had confidence based on the love and support we felt from the Alfred student community, but to gain such enthusiastic respect and admiration of other colleges makes our team feel capable of competing with some of the best in the nation." The Alfred Steppas will join the AU Middle Eastern Dancers for a performance on March 25th at Alfred University's Powell Knight Club and will be defending their "Entertainers of the Year" status at AU's 10th annual Alfie Awards on April 30th.