Jenkins to speak at graduation

BY SHEREE N. JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

When the procession of students, faculty and alumni makes its way through the McLane Center during the 2003 Commencement, former AU grad Peter Jenkins, class of ’73, will be among them once again.

Jenkins will be giving the commencement address during the graduation ceremony this year.

The president of Alfred University, the board of trustees and the campus community decided to bring aboard Jenkins to speak at graduation, said Alfred University Provost David Sterback.

Marvin Bell, a renowned poet and educator, addressed the Class of 2002 during the University’s 166th Commencement and Dr. Russell W. Hollette, executive director of the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research NYS-TAR, delivered AU’s commencement exercises for the Class of 2001.

“When we select commencement speakers, we try to choose someone who can inspire our new graduates and whose achievements are something we would like them to emulate,” said AU President Charles Edmondson.

The process that led to Jenkins’ selection has been altered from past years, now including a contribution of ideas from Student Senate and having random students come into the Provost’s office to state who they might want as a commencement speaker.

“Successful alumni are a great pool to choose from,” said Sterback.

Though most seniors do not know who Jenkins is, they are pleased to have a speaker. But when students found out that Syracuse University was going to have former president Bill Clinton at their commencement and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton would be attending SUNY Cortland’s commencement, they were a little disappointed.

As Christopher Wingate, a communication studies student, pointed out, “Alfred just doesn’t have the money for expensive speakers like that.”

Since Jenkins writes travelogues and is one of the top travel writers in the country, Sterback promises that he will deliver a good speech to the graduating class of 2003.

New Direct Connect network raises concern

BY BILL KRAMER
WEB MANAGER

The Internet file sharing controversy has hit Alfred University in the form of Direct Connect, a file-sharing network similar to the now-defunct Napster.

A student, who wished to be referred to only as the “controller of AU Direct Connect,” claimed to have started the “mini-Napster” network.

“We have been isolated from any type of file sharing program due to the packetfilter [limitations] on the network, and this allowed just the Alfred University community to access and share files quickly and easily,” said the controller of AU Direct Connect.

Packeteer refers to a system on campus that limits bandwidth for certain Internet activities, such as participating in peer-to-peer file sharing networks.

The controller stated that the number of AU Direct Connect users is on the rise.

“I expect our user base is growing. We have over 50 people and over 800 GB shared,” said the controller.

Financial repercussions of war discussed

BY BRANDON THURNER
MANAGING EDITOR

With the uncertainty that war brings, it is important to understand the effects conflict has on the international markets and currencies.

“Before the war, the whole economy was trying to pull out of a recession,” said Professor of Finance Ashkren B. Robana.

Some indicators such as low interest rates and inflation point right in the direction. But war brings a distortion in the allocation of resources.

Conflicts bring about an increased expenditure on defense systems and the military, explained Robana. The longer the conflict, the longer the distortion, he added.

Robana believes that the European Union and Japan, which has the second largest economy after the U.S., will play a major role in the world market economy after the conflict subsides.

Concerns about the dollar feels the threats to the dollar are internal. The United States’ trade deficit, which is chronically large, will expand even more if the subsequent energy bill is high. The dollar is expected to decline in value over time through the Euros and other major currencies, he added.

Despite this gloomy economic news, Robana believes every war brings about new opportunities.

“If the conflict is swift and succeeds in stabilizing world oil prices, then worldwide economic growth would be accelerated,” said Robana.

The subsequent rebuilding of Iraq’s infrastructure after the war will grow Iraq’s economy and possibly spread to other nations in the region, said Robana.

Despite this growth outlook, prices, then worldwide economic growth would be accelerated,” said Robana.

History is also on the side of the dollar.

The dollar promises from the United States of economic loans and trade ties.

In economic loans and trade ties, he added.

The United States’ trade deficit, which has the second largest economic growth would be accelerated,” said Jordan Baker-Caldwell.

The dollar promises from the United States of economic loans and trade ties.

Despite this growth outlook, prices, then worldwide economic growth would be accelerated,” said Jordan Baker-Caldwell.

The controller added that the bill for the United States in subsequent military campaigns, the billions of dollars in economic loans and trade promises from the United States of political science, also believes the war in Iraq will have profound effects on trading patterns. He added that the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 gave the impetus for worldwide economic integration and expansion.

“Expanding free trade requires that our trading partners believe that the benefits of trade are worth the trouble of resisting domestic political pressures from inefficient producers.”

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“I expect our user base is growing. We have over 50 people and over 800 GB shared,” said the controller.
The Fiat Lux welcomes your opinion.

Submissions must include name, address, phone number and class year (for students). Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words; guest columns should be limited to 700 words.

E-mail your thoughts to fiatlux@alfred.edu

Submissions should follow the rules of fair play and are subject to space issues.

Locals should speak at Commencement

Unlikely colleges and universities around the country with deeper pockets that choose to shell out big bucks to bring celebrities to campus, in keeping with its longstanding tradition, Alfred is bringing a speaker of local note to address the class of 2003 at Commencement. This time of year, news stories will begin to appear about well-known figures who will be delivering commencement addresses at well-known schools.

Celebrities, though fun to look at, are not known for their speaking talents. Actors set. They do not write script. Famous athletes are skilled as athletes, but that says nothing about their abilities to write or speak. Celebrities have a place in society but they neither know nor understand the academic major before and after their appearance by an entourage of body guards.

Alfred, the diverse amalgam of a school that it is, made up separate colleges, chosen communities of students. Alfred has never been about big budgets or celebrities. It never advertised a personal touch that has been a hallmark of our stay in Alfred. AU has you leave this campus. If you have the good fortune of not only allowing the students, most recently through the McLane Center, parents, friends, graduates, professors, administrators and others, has already endured? So that we can never truly know what life is like for a student graduating from Alfred University.

A celebrity can offer cliché. But then why add another cliché when we have had enough of them? A celebrity is not going to make a personal connection with the Alfred community because he or she has just never lived here, and thus can never know what life is like for a student graduating from Alfred University.

This means when they come to speak at a commencement, they may or may not have words of insight to offer. They may or may not add words of wisdom to the ceremony.

A celebrity is not going to make a personal connection with the Alfred community because he or she has just never lived here, and thus can never know what life is like for a student graduating from Alfred University.

With this in mind, Alfred should invite someone on the campus who knows the community and has a touch that Alfred can provide. Thus, we suggest a speaker of local note to address the class of 2003 at Commencement.

Fiat Lux supports the perpetuation of a broad and liberal education on free speech. Only mandated editing, such as the signature line on newspaper, other editorials reflect the intended purpose.

The Fiat Lux is printed by Hornell Evening Tribune and is typed by the production staff. It is funded in part by Student Senate.
Decision to use recording at graduation questioned

Dear Editor:

It has recently come out that there will be no band at graduation this year. Instead, a CD of procedural music will be played.

As a graduating senior and one who appreciates live music, I am thoroughly appalled that the concert band is being replaced by something taped. The AU band is recognized for its sole purpose of playing at graduation. Those responsible for this should rethink their decision before it's too late to stop graduation from being tacky.

Mike Sarcoccia
Class of 2003

WorldNotes

National

According to CNN.com, the Federal Emergency Management Association plans on wrapping up its search for lost debris from the space shuttle Columbia, by the end of April the earliest.

According to CNN.com, the space shuttle Columbia is being looked into by President Matthew Washington. This is due to a lack of pedestrian walkways in that area. Senator Paul "Bubba" Buckley declared that the UTPD tape the senate meetings and broadcast them so that the campus knows what is going on, and how to make their voices heard.

Lastly, senior Colin Kennard suggested that there should be a period every day where no classes are held, so that meetings and events such as the Bergren Forum, would be accessible to all students.

International

According to the "Death Penalty Worldwide: Developments in 2002" by Amnesty International, the worldwide execution rate declined in 2002, but increased in the United States.

A total of 1,526 people were executed in 31 countries, with the United States, China and Iran accounting for 81 percent of those executed.

According to CNN.com, Cuba sentenced 75 dissidents for sentences of up to 29 years. Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque stated that the dissidents were charged for receiving American government funds and working with U.S. diplomats, not for criticizing the Cuban government.

Secretary of State Colin Powell condemned the acts as "the most significant act of political repression in decades." Powell also said the U.S. would ask the Human Rights Commission in Geneva to condemn Fidel Castro's government.

According to CNN.com, a five-hour hostage situation in Berlin, Germany ended when policy commandos stormed the rear window of the hijacked double-decker bus.

The gunman had just robbed a Commerbank when he took the 20 passenger bus hostage. Police injured the hostage-taker, but no hostages were harmed. Less than $10,770 was stolen from the bank.

Student Senate Update

BY ALISON SAVETT
Copy Editor

Beth Ann Dobo, chair of the Middle States Steering Committee, came to Student Senate on April 2 to speak about the self-evaluation report.

“We want to keep in touch with all of the constituencies through this process,” she explained, referring to students, faculty, staff and administration.

Dobo then proceeded to ask if anyone had thoughts on whether students have a good role in decision-making, at AU, and how to get students more involved.

There were many responses to these questions.

“I don’t think that the students know that they have that power of decision-making,” said senator Sarah Goldstein.

Senior Colin Kennard posed some ideas for getting more students involved in leadership activities on campus.

“Maybe getting more merging with student groups and activities,” he said.

In new business that same evening, Gerald Brody, dean of students and vice president for student affairs, came with the student leadership enhancement project team (SLEPT) to speak to senate and get its input on what they have been discussing.

SLEPT was put together because of the void created on campus in student life due to the trustees’ decision to eliminate Greek life.

SLEPT showed two different categories of short-term enhancement and long-term enhancement.

In order of priority, the team showed ideas such as the need for a place that can be reserved for social functions, both alcoholic and non, open to all student. The team made it clear that they did not want the event to be solely about alcohol. They also discussed the possibility for an alumni houses for the alumni to stay in when they came to campus, much like a fraternity house, but for any student group. This idea was also posed so that individuals could do the same. All in all, the team had 12 ideas.

As far as long-term enhancement, the team came up with eight ideas, such as updating and soundproofing residence halls, alumni networking within student organizations and a central safe environment for alcohol consumption, possibly an on-campus pub that allows undergraduates to hang out, but not drink.

Senator Miles Nielsen asked Brody what is going to happen to the houses on fraternity row that are currently empty. Brody responded that it is a very complicated situation.

“I suspect there will be a variety of answers,” he said.

During the meeting on April 9, chair of the food committee James “Crash” Macomber brought forward a report from the head of the dining hall that they will be changing distributors.

Also, he mentioned, Code Red Mountain Dew will be replaced by orange soda.

Secretary Kerry White told the senators that as of this meeting it is a new attendance year.

During each forum a number of ideas were posed. A possibility of a temporary path across the field in front of McLane is being looked into by President Matthew Washington. This is due to a lack of pedestrian walkways in that area. Senator Paul "Bubba" Buckley declared that the UTPD tape the senate meetings and broadcast them so that the campus knows what is going on, and how to make their voices heard.

Lastly, senior Colin Kennard suggested that there should be a period every day where no classes are held, so that meetings and events such as the Bergren Forum, would be accessible to all students.

Police Blotter

COVERING MARCH 28 – APRIL 8
COURTESY OF THE ALFRED POLICE DEPARTMENT

Vicky L. Orr, 29, of Avoca, N.Y., was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation (AUIO) in the third degree, driving while intoxicated (DWI) and driving while ability impaired (DWAI) on March 28.

Jihan M. Cooper, 23, of Rochester, N.Y., was arrested on a bench warrant for AU in the third degree and speeding on March 28.

Patrick A. Lavey, 19, of Corning, N.Y., was charged with petty larceny on March 29.

Alison D. Savett, 21, of Marion Station, Pa., was charged with AUIO in the third degree on March 29.

Chad C. Schwartz, 23, of Stockton, N.Y., was charged with possession of an open container on March 30.

Lesia Pereira, 20, of Rochester, N.Y., was charged with criminal trespassing, criminal mischief and harassment in the second degree for refusing to leave a sorority party, spilling a female and breaking a light on his way out on March 31.

Kirsten C. Nesvig, 22, of Alfred, N.Y., was charged with AUIO in 5th degree on April 3.

Jona R. Schuba, 22, of Arkport, N.Y., was charged with violation V. golf 24, of North Yarmouth, Maine, were both charged with disturbing the peace for trying to start a fire in front of Gentleman Jim’s Bar on April 5.

Joseph P. Flieg, 25, of Alfred, N.Y., was charged with disturbing the peace by standing naked in the parking lot at the corner street from the police station on April 5.

Nicholas McGon, 20, of Alfred, N.Y., was charged with trespassing by getting his car stuck in a field that did not belong to him on April 6.

Ryan L. Collins, 19, of Phillips in the Pine Hill Suites on AU’s campus, was charged with disorderly conduct for breaking a window at the suites on April 6.

Allan J. Silverman, 21, of Irving, N.Y., was arrested on an arrest warrant for not appearing in court for his two previous DWIs on April 7.

Justin A. Callamise, 22, of Leroy, N.Y., was arrested on an arrest warrant for parking tickets on April 8.
BY CHRISTOPHER SHARKEY  
Staff Writer

The Political Science Society hosted a Foreign Policy Forum on Monday that featured a discussion on the current situation with North Korea on April 2 in Nevins Theatre. The forum was designed to present a variety of perspectives on U.S. foreign policy from both political and economic standpoints.

Student Senate President Michael Mann, a junior business administration major, opened the forum with a presentation on the current crises in Iraq and the United States could wage preemptive war against them. William Dibrell, professor of philosophy, described his own stance on the issue of preemptive war. Dibrell disagreed with the war because of his belief that it is not in America’s interests. Lacking a clear connection between Iraq and Sept. 11, Dibrell was vehemently an unjustified, avoidable war that is increasing hostility towards the United States, said Dibrell.

Dibrell said that to achieve peace, the Palestinian problem must be addressed in a different way. “The situation when the United States could wage preemptive war against them was a dire situation where United States could wage preemptive war against them,” Dibrell said.

Jeffrey Walkowicz started the forum by pointing to Afghanistan as a country that was not considered an immediate threat prior to Sept. 11.

The forum ended with a 30-minute question and answer session.

FMA travels to Chicago to explain SMIF portfolio

BY BRANDON THURNER  
Managing Editor

College of Business students traveled to Chicago to take part in the Financial Management Association’s 13th annual conference convention and present a slice of Alfred life to those gathered from March 27-28.

“When and how is the event is meant to help students who want to go into the financial management field,” said sophomore Patrick Ryan Love.

Sitting alongside Love, the SMIF presentation detailed a history of the club and general facts about the club and its advisor. The presentation was designed to show other universities how SMIF functions, and to give them a model to follow, said Love.

Feedback from students and participating institutions was positive, said Love. The positive reaction to the presentation prompted official requests to ask the SMIF team for follow-up information on how to establish a similar club of their own, he added.

Michael Mann, a senior business administration major, described the financial management association and all the effort leading up to it as something that “the club has devised by all members of the group,” said Mann. “We met several times before asking the SMIF team for follow-up information on how to establish a similar club of their own,” he added.

According to Mann, junior Jeffrey Walkowicz started the presentation as a witness to the SMIF portfolio talk with a sample “buy” presentation for Avial, an airline parts manufacturer and service provider.

Finally, senior business administration major Rob Abderahman Robinson, the team leader for the presentation with a then-and-now synopsis of SMIF’s market performance over last year and a forecast for the year.

The strong response from other participants gave the SMIF team a feeling that its convention goals were achieved, said Love.

The fact that other universities were interested in SMIF’s organization and stock market guidelines paid tribute to its dedicated members, he added.

Mann believes that much of the credit for SMIF’s success at the convention came from the core group of students, but does not downplay the role of its faculty advisor.

“Dr. Robana has been the driving force behind SMIF. He is the one who created SMIF and convinced the board of directors to invest $10,000 to begin investing,” said Mann.

Robana noted that this group of students is the only team to showcase the SMIF portfolio since its inception. Student interactions on trips such as these are important as they enable students to connect with officials such as the Chicago Federal Reserve, the Chicago Board of Trade and the Mercantile Commodity Exchange, said Robana.

Robana believes the students represent the best of Alfred University, as well as their goals of promoting the SMIF model and raised awareness of Alfred.

“The students representing AU have received many accolades for the quality of presentations in Chicago, and left a good image of Alfred University behind them,” Robana said.

According to Mann, the best part of the trip dealt with the presentation itself, not only between SMIF members, but other participants as well.

The reviewer from Direct Connect said, “I had notifi...”
Alfred Admissions hosts kick off for accepted students

BY BRIDGET CARLTON  STAFF WRITER

At the University Academic Fair, questions regarding Track II programs, study abroad or general questions regarding majors and minors were answered by a panel of professors. In addition to the question and answer session with professors, the perspective students were given campus tours. The tours gave the perspectives a complete look at the campus, stopping in freshman residence halls Openhym and Toft. The Student Activities Fair was the highlight of the weekend for many perspective students. Various campus clubs and organizations set up a table where perspectives could speak to club representatives about the organizations at AU. Also, student health, athletics and special academic services made their presence known at Susan Howell Hall for the Beyond Academics Event.

“The goal was to have as many students as possible attend AU in the fall,” said Codispoti. “At the same time, we really wanted to show them as much as possible about AU,” she added. The weekend activities and tours extended to overnight housing, allowing perspective students to experience a realistic stay at AU.

“Everyone seemed to have fun,” said Crystal Myers, a sophomore elementary education and child psychology double major, and student overnight hosting coordinator. “All of the students I spoke to said they had a good time.” The kickoff ended with a relaxing banquet attended by President Charles Edmonson and a showing of the hit movie My Big Fat Greek Wedding. According to Codispoti, the visitors had a packed and entertaining visit.

“The feedback has been all positive so far, and if there were any problems, we haven’t heard about them. I think everyone had a great time,” said Codispoti.

Biomedical Engineering degree introduced

BY JAMES KRYSIAK  NEWS EDITOR

Beginning next semester, AU will offer a biomedical degree program in biomedical materials engineering science. The program, to be offered through the Biomedical Engineering Department, was recently approved by the New York State Education Department, according to a press release issued by the University.

Alan Goldstein, professor of biomaterials, will head up the program.

“If you go at looking engineering programs ... you find that computer science and electrical engineering (EE) (Electrical Engineering) is the number one program, and biomedical engineering is almost always number two,” said Goldstein.

Goldstein added that the focus on biomedical materials engineering, a subdivision of biomedical engineering, was chosen because of AU’s preschooling focus on materials engineering.

“Biomaterials are the stuff that biomedical devices are made of,” said Goldstein, “and there are not that many programs out there with that focus.”

Professor David Szebert has further clarified the uniqueness of AU’s program.

“Most programs, even at the graduate level, concentrate on development of devices, while our programs focus on the materials that are used to manufacture those devices,” said Szebert.

Goldstein believes that the biomedical materials engineering program is highly interdisciplinary, and opens up many career opportunities.

“If you graduate with a degree in BMES, you can go onto law school, medical school and graduate school,” said Goldstein.

The program will focus strongly on the engineering aspects, as opposed to other programs across the country that Goldstein claimed are often indistinguishable from cell biology programs.

“Students who graduate from the program are going to be card-carrying engineers. Students who can’t work as bioengineers will be able to work in materials engineering,” said Goldstein.

Goldstein hopes to continue AU’s tradition of undergraduate research with the biomedical materials engineering program, saying that some students have already begun such research in the biomedical engineering labs in Binno-Merrill Hall.

According to Goldstein, undergraduate research will also be a major component of the 4-1-5 five-year master’s degree program in biomedical materials engineering that will be offered.

“Students will have to work closely with their advisor,” Goldstein said, adding that the plan will involve students carrying their undergraduate research projects through to their fifth year.

Goldstein said that the program will be ready to roll out next year. Students can begin to declare the biomedical materials engineering major right now, and one of the two new courses, a general introduction to biomedical engineering, will be offered next fall.

Goldstein stressed that highly motivated current undergraduate students can also visibly choose to pursue a major in biomedical materials engineering, although some summer catch-up work could be required.

“We could grant a degree next year if a senior had taken the appropriate courses, but it will probably be a year or two before we have our first graduate,” said Goldstein.

Goldstein hopes for an enthusiastic group of incoming biomedical materials engineering majors to begin working with the “really excellent core faculty,” including Subrata Saha, professor of biomaterials and a card-carrying biomedical engineer.
Flid Show brought to life by talented acting

BY REBECCA WURST
STAFF WRITER

The C.D. Smith Theater opened its doors Wednesday for the four-act performance of The Flid Show, directed by AU alumna Eliza Bedworth, who has been visiting Alfred from New York City this semester. Senior theatre major Shamilda Amaralason, played the role of Duncan Mowbray, a 39-year-old man born without arms as a result of the drug thalidomide, taken in the early 60’s to induce sleep. His mother had taken the drug, not knowing the dramatic side effects.

In The Flid Show, the audience is taken through the past and present life of Duncan in an almost Christmas Carol-like way. Frances Kelsey, played by freshman Hailey Field, does an excellent job as Duncan’s guide through his past, to learn the truth about what happened.

Duncan is shown his parents before and during the pregnancy. Junior theater major Vanessa Stipkovich plays Michele Mowbray, Duncan’s perfectionist mother, and senior theatre major Andrew Shaw plays Duncan’s alcoholic father, Gordon.

Once Duncan is born, his mother is embarrassed to show him to her friends.

Senior theater majors Joshua First and Emily Tacker play the roles of young Duncan and Brenda, respectively. Tucker does an excellent job of playing the little sister who will always be there and first puts in a good performance as well. Shamilda Tacker pushed one to pose questions in every exhibit.

In general, the actors did a good job portraying their characters. The voice-overs added a nice touch. Beckwith did a fabulous job directing the play, as well.

Lighting played a big part in the play, which was handled professionally by visiting artist Scott Ashley.

Unfortunately, even though the actors did a nice job and it was well directed, the play just seemed to drag on.

The first hour was fine, but after intermission, it just dropped. It seemed repetitive in places and just didn’t grab the audience. I had a hard time staying awake, which is something I don’t blame on the actors.

The play’s topic, while educational, was depressing and it got old. I was constantly looking at my watch to see when it would be over.

If you want to see good performances, you should’ve checked The Flid Show out. However, if you wanted to be captivated, this was definitely not the show for you.

Moss featured in art show

BY BRIDGET CARLTON
STAFF WRITER

Who would have thought moss could be so sexy?

Yes, moss. The green and brown organism growing in forests, attached to logs and trees.

Well, Christian Singer, a second year graduate student, used this hash living organism recently as the subject for his thesis art show, held at the artSite gallery in Wellsville.

While other art graduates used conventional materials such as metal, wood and glass in their theses, Singer pushed his personal limits by using moss. This was not easy to do because his moss was living and also fragile. Singer used the gallery space accordingly and pushed one to pose questions in every exhibit.

One’s attention is grabbed immediately upon entering the gallery. Even in the display windows, moss was massed in such a way to amuse the mind. His portrayals of moss in his other exhibits throughout the gallery were equally interesting and successful.

“The play on space, progression and the subject itself worked together,” stated landscape artist Scott Ashley.

Singer expressed his interpretation of moss in a clever yet subtle fashion, but also left room for one to create one’s own reasoning, allowing the imagination to run.

The gallery is open Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additional information may be obtained by calling artSite at (585) 593-3003.

Jazz Ensemble puts on memorable performance

BY STEPHANIE BLISS
STAFF WRITER

The Alfred University Jazz Ensemble gave an unforgettable performance on April 4 in Holmes Auditorium.

The ensemble, known for its exciting foot-tapping numbers and for encouraging the audience to actively participate in the show, has grown from 22 members to 27 in less than four years under the direction of Edward Wadin, director of hands and instructor in music. Wadin also directs the AU Concert Band, AU Pep Band and the brass and percussion ensembles.

Opening the performance was a small combo of the ensemble members who had formed their own unnamed group. They also performed during the intermission and ended the night with a country, hoe-down version of “Kryptonite” by rock band Three Doors Down.

After the opening song, the ensemble just right in with “Swing Shot,” written by Paul Clark, one of many numbers that included swing dancers on the stage. “Swing Shot” also featured many well-executed solos.

“Our third pieces,” announced Wadin, “is a first showing of a number written by one of our own, Daniel Thayer.”

Thayer, a senior electrical engineering student, has written several pieces for the group and vowed the audience with his latest, “Ain’t Never Goin’ Back.” Thayer played the piano and keyboard.

“I’ve been performing with the jazz band for four years,” said Thayer, “and I’m going to really miss working with Mr. Wadin and the group.”

Another highlighted number was “That’s a Plenty” written by Hert Williams, which featured a five piece combo of ensemble members including Thayer, drummer Michael Sacconetti, trumpeter Nicholas Rock, trombonist Andrew Hay and clarinetist Daniel Hoetger. The combo added a festive touch to the evening, with matching hats and a great performance.

One of the new pieces performed was an amazing version of “Over the Rainbow,” written by Harold Arlen and arranged by Lowden. Saxophonist Ashley Taylor proved to be a highlight, as she gave one of the most moving solos of the night. The blissful feel of the piece served as a change of pace for the group.

Another home-grown feature was the last scheduled song of the night, the roaring “Saxon Strong” written by Wadin.

“One of the great aspects of teaching,” explained Wadin, “is giving guidelines and setting facts for the students and then seeing them blossom and grow. “Saxon Strong” is about improving and growing and this is dedicated to the AU Jazz Ensemble.”

While encouraging the audience to stamp its feet, dance and really “feel” the song, the ensemble ended the night in style and grace. The audience, who always rewards the ensemble with a standing ovation, was thrilled and entertained.

Following the ovation, the group gave an encore performance of “Jump Five and Walt!” a seasoned favorite for both audience and performers.

Overall, it was an amazing performance that AU and the surrounding community can look forward to more of in the near future.

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Zen teacher puts present time into perspective

The venerable Roko ni-Osho, Sherry Chayat, of the Zen Center of Syracuse Hoen-ji, taught a class, conducted a public meditation in the traditional Rinzai model and held two public discussions, during her residency at Alfred University from April 7-10.

I did not meet her until I was asked by professor of English Ben Howard, who was instrumental in bringing Roko Osho to Alfred, to escort her and her assistant, Jikyo Bonnie Shoultz, down to Nana's Japanese Café and Pottery for lunch.

Someone embedded in the life of the western world, such as myself, might not know how to react when meeting Roko Osho for the first time. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1943 and later moved to rural New Jersey. She pursued a creative writing degree at Vassar College and was an active protestor during the Vietnam War.

She has been doing this for over 30 years and is also the first American woman to receive official Rinzai Zen Transmission, one of the highest honors a teacher of Zen Buddhism can receive.

She also received the gold rakusu (vestment) given to her by her teacher, the venerable Eido Shimano Roshi.

She has been doing this for over 30 years and is also the first American woman to receive official Rinzai Zen Transmission, one of the highest honors a teacher of Zen Buddhism can receive.

She also has an unexplainable quality, beyond the physical. The quality forces you to listen to her and understand who she is.

On Wednesday, the third day of her residency, Roko Osho gave an intimate talk in the Kenyon-Allen room, titled “Being Peace in A Time of War.” It brought a lot of things to the forefront in not only my mind, but I hope in others' minds as well.

The talk was not necessary about the war, but how we can be at peace in such a turbulent time, not with just ourselves, but with those around us.

“To be at peace, to come to a place of calm abiding, to offer that as a gift, this is something we can do with each other,” she said.

Something else she had said that continued to revisit my conscious was what she referred to as “the three poisons.” They are greed, anger and ignorance.

How can I overcome these? How can anyone? It is a question that needs examined, but one that cannot be answered overnight, much less in one talk. She did not come here to answer questions; she came to make us aware. She certainly accomplished her goal.

“How many hours have we been awake today?” Roko Osho asks as she opened her Bergren Forum, “An Open Secret: Every Moment Zen,” on Thursday. This is a purveying theme I captured from somewhere out there. That, she said, was the point of the talk.

“This is it.” Roko Osho said. “This – is – it.” Roko Osho said as she spoke during the Bergren Forum in Nevins Theater. Each word was given space to breathe, time to be taken in.

“You might have had a cup of tea before that was better than the one you are having right now but, this – is – it.”

I have had numerous cups of good tea as well as bad tea. I knew what was being said; at least I think I do. That word was given space to breathe, time to be taken in.

“Being Peace in A Time of War.”

“Being Peace in A Time of War.”

It brought a lot of things to the forefront in not only my mind, but I hope in others' minds as well.

The talk was not necessary about the war, but how we can be at peace in such a turbulent time, not with just ourselves, but with those around us.

“To be at peace, to come to a place of calm abiding, to offer that as a gift, this is something we can do with each other,” she said.

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Kevin Spacey makes Life of David Gale worthwhile

BY STEPHANIE BLISS
STAFF WRITER

The death penalty in American states is the focal point of the film The Life of David Gale, starring Kevin Spacey and some other not-as-important characters.

OK, so maybe they are important, but for right now, it’s all about Spacey’s presence and how it affects the film.

All I can say is, “Wow.” Then again, I am slightly obsessed with this Oscar-winning star, also seen in movies such as American Beauty, The Usual Suspects and K-PAX. Spacey is David Gale in this movie, and most likely, I never would have heard of this film if he wasn’t in it.

The Life of David Gale is based on the true story of none other than David Gale. Gale is a college professor in Texas, who is one of the state’s leading activists against the death penalty. The irony and the whole point of the film is that Gale is being sentenced to death for murdering fellow activist and friend, Constance Harraway, played by Laura Linney (Absolute Power, The Truman Show), who plays a much smaller role than she should have.

Gale agrees to speak to one reporter three days before his execution in an attempt to “clear his name” for his son’s sake. In comes Kate Winslet’s character, Bitsy Bloom. Winslet, who is most known from Titanic, plays a completely underdeveloped emotional case-cracker that pretends not to care, but fills her big eyes with tears at the story of Gale’s life.

Throughout the movie, aided by a lovely “intern” and a mystery cowboy, Bloom rushes to save Gale from his impending doom. She fails. But is that the whole truth?

The film relies on great acting and bizarre twists to make it a success but doesn’t quite capture everything it set out to do. For example, Gale’s lawyer and the mystery cowboy are, like Winslet’s character, highly undeveloped and, at certain points, have very random scenes that I didn’t feel contributed anything to the film. At best, these characters only helped to give an “eerie” feel to the movie.

The film also exaggerates Gale’s impending execution with a long sequence of Bloom trying to stop it by running several miles in an unreal amount of time, just to get there too late.

In comes the slow-motion scene of Bloom crying. Poor Kate Winslet. She must have thought this could be a happy ending. Sorry folks, not for a true story.

This aspect, the unhappy ending, is what makes the film more real. And let’s face it: if you’re making a true story, it needs to be REAL, not too Hollywood. Kudos to the director, Alan Parker, for attempting to keep the Hollywood aspects, like the running sequence, in control.

While slightly predictable, it’s not a cheesy-in-your-face type of obvious. The twists are good, but knowing that it is based on a true story just makes the movie less likable because, in all honesty, who wants to know just how far some people are willing to go to get what they want?

Overall, The Life of David Gale is worth seeing, even if it is solely for Kevin Spacey. He makes it all worth it. I give this movie a large popcorn, light on the butter. ☺
Opeth’s new album has depth and originality

BY JOHN P. DUNPHY
A & E EDITOR

Opeth is not something one can easily absorb in one listen. The band’s music is complex, even when sounding as seemingly simple as it does on its latest release, Damnation, due to hit the streets on April 22. But those hearty enough to give it a chance are sure to be amply rewarded.

Damnation is the Swedish four-piece’s follow-up to last fall’s Deliverance. The two albums were recorded simultaneously, in a span of time the band would usually allot for one release. However, any fears of a rush job at the expense of quality are hushed when one sits down to listen.

The album isn’t something that will immediately grab you. Even I needed a few listens for it to truly open itself up. But, after those few listens, and a few more and a few more still, I can honestly say that this is some of the most beautiful music heard so far in 2003. Damnation is not metal in the usual sense. Head-banging is put aside in favor of head-bobbing and head-swaying, contemplation favored to aggression. Akerfeldt and guitarist Peter Lindgren, for the most part tone down the distorted guitars, giving the band’s music depth and originality.

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While Ross’s portrayal of the newspaper world is in many ways fascinating, it is also at some points problematic. The text renders itself inaccessible to its audience in some places by relying on terms and phrases that are out of the general reader’s vocabulary. It is also possible to lose sight of the main character, George Hartshorn, at times because one is so caught up in the labyrinthine language of the narrative. It seems very difficult to get a concrete impression of Hartshorn, but very easy to picture the town he is living in.

Ross shows a flair for metaphor that, while providing images that are both dramatic and interesting, also seems extraneous in places. The book is fast-paced and races quickly from scene to scene, from character to character. The analysis is introduced to a whirlwind of Boston icons, which gives the book energy, but makes the plot seem fragmented in places.

Though the book could be considered difficult to follow, it is nevertheless a fascinating look at the relationship between politics and newspapers in the early twentieth century. The actual writing style is an interesting hybrid between clipped, crisp-sentence structure of modern journalism with the verbatim of Boston in the early twenties.

While it may be advisable to read this book with a dictionary at the ready, Corruption is in no way unentertaining or boring. Brimming with accuracy and colorful characters, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of Boston or the history of journalism in this country.

Corruption: A Novel of a Boston Newspaper is available now at the Powell Campus Center bookstore.

Journalistic corruption explored in Littel’s new book

BY EMILY WADE
STAFF WRITER

The world of journalism is not always a pretty one. This fact is made clear in Corruption: A Novel of a Boston Newspaper, written by Alan Littell under the pseudonym Ciaran Ross, who serves as biographer and curator of the Alfred University Openhym Collection of Modern Irish Literature and Social History and is an AU alum of the class of 1963.

The book, which takes place in Boston during the tumultuous twenties, is about the struggle of a reporter to stand up to the crooked politicians and advertising interests that have robbed his newspaper of its journalistic credibility.

The book is rich with historical accuracy, dealing with some of the most famous people and places in Boston’s past. It focuses on the tension between the crumbling power of the Anglo-Saxon Protestant upper classes and the Irish Catholic population that is growing in prominence. Corruption also delves deeply into the dramatic culture of newspapers, focusing on hard-boiled personalities that give the book a dark yet compelling air.

While Ross’s portrayal of the newspaper world is in many ways fascinating, it is also at some points problematic. The text renders itself inaccessible to its audience in some places by relying on terms and phrases that are out of the general reader’s vocabulary. It is also possible to lose sight of the main character, George Hartshorn, at times because one is so caught up in the labyrinthine language of the narrative. It seems very difficult to get a concrete impression of Hartshorn, but very easy to picture the town he is living in.

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Wellsville Country Club golf course good for all; excellent for beginners

BY JOSEPH GIGUERE
STAFF WRITER

Wellsville Country Club is the home course for Alfred University's golf team.

The course is always kept in good condition with well-kept fairways as well as true rolling greens. This course is very conducive to walking, as it really has no hills to speak of, however carts are available if desired.

It definitely helps to play with someone who knows this course because there are lots of small water hazards that come into play. Therefore, knowing the proper yardages is critical. Some of the most challenging holes on the course are the par threes. They tend to be longer than average, such as the 18th hole which plays around 200 yards uphill to a well-bunkered green. The 18th hole will quickly quiet any complaints that hole 17, a possibly drivable par 4, is too short to constitute a "real" golf hole.

A drawback to the course is that, since the course is at a low elevation, there isn't much of a view of the surrounding countryside. Another slight fault is that in the course of playing a round at Wellsville C.C. you must cross over 30 highways, which tends to detract from the golfer's common sense.

As far as course amenities, Wellsville C.C. has everything commonly associated with an upstanding golf facility. These include a practice green as well as a driving range for golfers to warm up their game and/or work out the kinks after a tough round. In addition to this, there is a full-service pro shop where players are able to find just about any product they might need to make their game a little bit easier. Also included on the premises is a restaurant and bar where a player can stop in for a quick snack between holes or enjoy a nice amber beverage after a less than perfect round.

This is an excellent golf course for anyone from beginners to the scratch golfer that just wants to fine-tune his or her skills. If you are long off the tee this might not be the best course to practice your approach shots, as a lot of the par fours and fives tend to be short.

For beginning golfers the course is great because the fairways are so many slopes in them, which is good for developing a consistent swing.

Overall Wellsville C.C. is a fun golf course for golfers of all abilities.

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**Softball**

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

Aside from gaining another year of experience from last year's young squad, the team has also added depth at pitching.

Freshman Brittany Curran has split starts with last year's son, senior Brandi Backus. This relieves Backus of much of the responsibility that was on her shoulders alone last year being the only starting pitcher.

"You can see the weight lifted off [Backus'] shoulders," said McLaughlin. "She goes out and does her job. If she's struggling, she knows there's someone there to pick her up on." 

This year's squad has also been helped by the re-addition of a couple seniors who took last season off. Catcher Sarah Mizer and outfielder Alicia DeAndrea have returned to add punch to the offense.

The two are in Alfred's record book; tied with two others for the second-longest high with three home runs set in both of their sophomore years. DeAndrea is also tied for the all-time lead with 41 hits in the 2000 season and holds the school records for runs in a season (20), career batting average (.401 entering the season) and triples in a season (5).

With these key additions, the team has much more potential for success now that it is done with the tough Florida schedule.

"I'm being optimistic this year," said McLaughlin, "I think we can be in the top four of our conference and make our conference championship."

The course is always kept in top shape with nature.

In addition to this, there is a restaurant and bar where a player can stop in for a quick snack between holes or enjoy a nice amber beverage after a less than perfect round.

Overall Wellsville Country Club golf course is a fun course for all; excellent for beginners.
ers, you’re thinking ‘shoot off stick, shoot off stick,’” said Chapman. “For a left-holder, it is coming right to his stick side.”

The biggest problem with Hohman’s game thus far is just beginning to put it into perspective.

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Emily Elwood.

LOCALS

Estran


Class 5: Intermediate Equitation on Foot — Champion, Syracuse, Jeanne Vanhouten. 7, Geneseo, Katie Fitzgerald.

Class 2: Walk-Trot-Canter Equitation — Champion, Syracuse, Rebecca Reilly. 6, Syracuse, Mary Vanhouten. 7, Geneseo, Katie Fitzgerald.

Class 5: Intermediate Equitation on Foot — Champion, Syracuse, Jeanne Vanhouten. 7, Geneseo, Katie Fitzgerald.


Class 4: Novice Equitation Over Fences — Champion, Elmira, Gary Whitman.

Class 3: Novice Equitation on the Flat — Champion, Alfred, Debbie Goodell.


Class 4: Open Intercollegiate Horsemanship — Champion, Alfred, Kim Reichner.

Class 3: Open Intercollegiate Horsemanship — Champion, Alfred, Kim Reichner.

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Class 1: Intermediate Horsemanship — Champion, Alfred, Thomas Vail.

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Men's swimming wins states and E-8

BY JAMES KRYSLAK
NEWS EDITOR

The men's swimming and diving team claimed its first ever state championship at the Webster Aquatic Center in Webster, N.Y., from Feb. 27 to March 1.

Leading second-place Ithaca 1219-1127, the team's win at the Empire Eight conference earned them top billing in the Association's Men's Swimming Center, fifth place in the nation and second in the Empire Eight conference.

“Winning the title at the Empire Eight conference was an amazing feeling,” said senior swimmer and diving champion Joe Namath, who was one of the most recognizable faces in sports throughout his NFL career from 1965 to 1977. The long-time New York Jets quarterback oozed cool on the field with his guaranteed victory over the heavily favored Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III as well as off the field with his wavy hair and fur coats.

Sophomore Nicholas Hohman earned them top billing in the Empire Eight conference. "As a goalie, it’s my job to direct the defense,” said Hohman. “It’s sort of like a quarterback of a football team.”

Hohman is quickly taking charge of Alfred’s backfield, replacing three-year starter Kevin Kazmierczak in the net. In his young career, he is already matching Kazmierczak’s performance with a .585 save percentage.

However, despite his early success, Hohman values his time spent on the bench a year ago. He needed the time to get used to the college game and his new teammates, learning from his predecessor, he said.

“Kevin brings a different game than Kazmierczak in terms of aggressiveness, both in playing and leadership styles. Kevin is more likely to take risks and go out after the ball or make a body save while Kazmierczak would demonstrate his stick handling skills in making the save,” said Striker.

“Most teams are practicing against right-handed goalies so their regular shots — the shots that they’ve used to — are shots that are used to go against a right-handed goalie,” said Hohman.

Chapman also prefers a left-handed goalkeeper to one that is right-handed. “The tendency for most shoot-ers is to go back after the ball.”

SOFBALL

BY ALEX RASKIN
SPORTS EDITOR

The Alfred University women’s lacrosse team took a disappointing loss last Saturday against Utica College.

As an injury to leading scorer Chris Sanford proved to be too much for the Saxons as they fell to 3-6 on the season with the 14-5 loss.

“This was a crucial game,” said senior attacker Kelly Farrell. “We just blew it.”

The loss drops the Saxons to 9-4 in league play.

“It [the chances of the Saxons getting in the postseason] doesn’t look really good right now,” added Farrell.

“We were just driving constantly,” said senior goalie Jessica Dunster. “We just weren’t clicking together,” she added.

Dunster stopped nine shots in 34 minutes, but the Utica trio of Kat Glynn, Kristy Patchett and Katlyn O’Connor prevented the Saxons from stealing a win.

Saxons struggle through inclement weather

Jennifer Manteri proved to be too much as they combined for ten of Utica’s 15 goals.

The Saxons would have had better chances if their leading scorer had not been dealing with injuries to her hamstring and groin.

“Chris is our leading scorer,” said Farrell. “It’s hard for us to get things going without her.”

Sanford did make a second half appearance, but failed to score. She did receive the ball with a chance to score at one point, but with one leg almost useless she had difficulty with her shot’s follow-through and the ball sailed over the net.

“It hurt to run out there,” said Sanford. “Coach wanted me to get open in the middle, but I couldn’t shake the defender.”

Sanford, who has already tallied her 100th point for the Saxons, should finish the season with over 100 goals in her career if she can stay healthy.

“I’m just day to day right now,” she said.

With the team’s offense at less than full strength, Farrell, Katie Sedgwick and Katie see SPORTS, PAGE 10

LEFTY BRINGS DIFFERENT LOOK

BY BRYAN SICK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sophomore Nick Hohman shows off his talent in goal by blocking a shot from RIT’s Craig Rubin. He played the entire game registering 11 saves in the 13-6 home loss on April 2.

Men’s Lacrosse

Latest 6-20 to Wooster

Saturday at Merrill Field

Team on upswing after hitting rock bottom

BY BRYAN SICK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

At first glance, this season’s version of Alfred softball does not look much different from last season’s.

A year ago, the Saxons finished at 5-26, with minimal offense. They did not score their first run until the ninth inning of their 12th game of the season against division II competition and rain/snow outs, it remains optimistic about the upcoming conference schedule.

“I’m excited to play the teams up here because we really haven’t had a chance,” said McLaughlin. “That’s what’s holding us back is not playing.”

Senior Katie Sedgwick faces off with a player from Wooster College’s Fighting Scots. The Saxons lost 20-9.

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