

HORTON

Alfred State College Centennial

Name: William Horton

Department: Student Affairs

Dates Employed: Fall 1968 - Spring 1991

Memories: (see attached)

Bob Love has asked me for some mid-sixties or later memories of Alfred and I am pleased to remember one, the quality of which was improved much by him. In 1969 and several years following, the Dean of Students office conducted Summer Orientation to help incoming students and their parents learn what college is like. A carefully selected group of fifteen senior students lived in a dormitory for six weeks, spending two sessions a week in close proximity to ten or twenty incoming students or their parents for two thrill-packed days and an even more thrill-packed night. (One of our Summer Assistants had had some disciplinary difficulties the preceding year and, by the end of Orientation, had developed great sympathy for the sufferings of Public Safety officers!)

The Deans of our different schools were willing to present programs focused on the academic content of the curricula of their schools. Most presented very capable introductory lectures. But discussions with Dean Love and several enthusiastic faculty members produced something different. He announced to the assembled students and parents that we would have a lecture and demonstration, followed by a test! (Loretta Smith and Joan Daniels wanted to include the test grades in the students' first-semester course averages but we thought this might be too realistic, possibly even unfair.)

Since Bob Love is an incorrigible showman, the results were marvelous. Bob's lecture was lively and blood was actually drawn from a Summer Assistant (Nick Stark, the editor of the student newspaper.) Nick's own living corpuscles under the microscope were displayed by the overhead projector, revealing nothing embarrassing. Everyone passed the test and a few parents and students even convinced faculty graders that some alternate answers were acceptable. Students, parents, and professors had a wonderful time and Alfred demonstrated cutting-edge instruction!

We had many changes in my years at Alfred (1968-1991) but none of my memories are brighter than this and few showed more clearly the warmth of relationships among parents, students, and faculty found in a great college.

Bill Horton
8/14/05