

## Alfred State College Centennial

**Name: Dr. James D. Barton, Jr.**

**Department: Office of Institutional Research & Records**

**Dates Employed: October, 1976- December, 1986**

**Memories:**

It is very difficult to extract the notable events during this 10 year period. On reflection every event was notable; the beginning of each year with Freshman testing and the chaos of Registration, the filing of Alfred's statistics with S.U.N.Y., the brisk Fall weather and colors, the biting cold of winter ameliorated by the cheerful Christmas parties; and at last Spring, graduation and a big sigh of relief.

Among all of this some individuals and groups stand out in my mind. First of all it was always a pleasure working directly for Dave Huntington. Any college President is always busy, but whenever he reviewed a report, project or statistical submission to S.U.N.Y. that I had prepared, his penetrating questions, careful analysis and calm manner, often pointing out ways to clarify a project, never reflected a desire to get on to the next appointment.

Secondly I most remember the competency of my staff; Mary Beaton, Ginny Chamberlin, Maureen King, Mary Lang and Judy Marlot. In those several years they taught me more about the intricacies of the registration and records process at Alfred State College than I could have devised. This wealth of knowledge and experience was particularly valuable during the process of converting the office from the arcane hand recording system of registration and records to a computerized system. In spite of the natural reluctance to embrace the new world of electronic letters and numbers they dug in and learned "how" under the gentle tutoring of Tom Dawson. Whenever it was necessary to travel to Albany for S.U.N.Y.'s numerous workshops on State and Federal reporting I knew my office was in competent hands and students would be served just as if I was there.

My third and most outstanding experience includes the largest group of staff, faculty, Administrators and students, far too many to name individually. When I was asked to chair the Graduation Committee, I was overwhelmed by the magnitude of both the committee size and the task we were assigned. Experienced members advised we start our meetings in early January and rightly so. Many had served for several years and recognized the importance of identifying the literally thousands of details involving every department of Alfred State College and beyond; Alfred University, Village of Alfred's Police (re: traffic control), the volunteer Fire & Rescue (re: EMT services), a one day one million dollar liability policy, to name only a few. The experienced members of the committee contributed essential details and

improvements over past performances. New members contributed new insights and perspectives not previously considered. Committee discussion debated, accepted, rejected, and assigned and accepted tasks to be performed. It seems that Graduation is one of the things that every member of the community wants to be a huge success. Personal feuds, animosities, and turf differences were put aside for the common good of Alfred's graduates.

To all of those who served over several years I owe my thanks for an exciting and memorable experience. Did those graduations occur as planned? YES! Did everyone do their assignments? YES! Were there any goofs? NO! Interestingly, outside of a major problem, such as no platform for the choir, only the person responsible would have noticed.

---