

ALFRED STATE COLLEGE CENTENNIAL

NAME: Dr. Thomas C. Leamer

DEPARTMENT: School of Agricultural Technologies

DATES EMPLOYED: June 1976 – July 1982

MEMORIES: I joined the administrative staff at Alfred as Dean of the School of Agricultural Technologies and also had a continuing appointment as a Professor in the Plant and Animal Science Department. As my wife (Sue) and I discussed this request, the first thing that came to mind for both of us was the warm welcome that we received as new comers both on campus and in the community. This was especially true of Dave and Mary Huntington. They really went above and beyond to welcome us and help us as new comers to Alfred State College. For example, they opened their home to us as we searched for housing in Alfred. Dave always made me feel like I was an important part of the administrative team at the College.

In addition to Dave and Mary, my other fond memories of Alfred are the Deans and Vice Presidents with whom I had the opportunity to work. Bob Love, Gary Frasier, John Gradoni, Hal Hackett, Joe Schaffner, Al VanderLinde, and Dick Thomas were the other Academic Deans during my tenure. George Morgensfeld, Jon DeTemple and Vince Trotta were the Vice Presidents. Each of these individuals in his own way contributed significantly to my growth as an individual and as a professional educator. While we didn't always agree, we had good discussions and in the end we all supported what was good for the College. I attribute this to the leadership that Dave Huntington provided.

Within the School of Agricultural Technologies, I had the opportunity to work with many very dedicated faculty and staff. The "hallmark" of the Ag faculty and staff was their dedication to the students. The students always came first and we had an outstanding group of students. The two administrative assistants that I worked most closely with were Gail Hardy and Florence Egger. The three Department Chairs in the School were Pete MacDonald, Walt Friend and Walt Wietgreffe. Each of these five individuals along with the other faculty and staff helped to make the School of Agricultural Technologies an outstanding School at Alfred and also one of the very strong agricultural programs within the SUNY system.

I could speak about many other individuals on the Alfred campus, but space does not permit that. Suffice it to say that we had a very strong faculty and staff throughout the College that helped to make it a very enjoyable place to work and helped to make Alfred one of the jewels within the SUNY system.

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In remembering people, Sue mentioned her work in helping to produce the Alfred State College Cook Book. She particularly has fond memories of working with Trudi Butera and Mary Huntington.

We both found the community of Alfred to be a very unique place to live. It had an excellent public school system and offered a great place to raise children. I had the opportunity to serve the community as an elected official in the Town. I also enjoyed the friendships and professional relationships I had with many folks at Alfred University.

Two of the highlights I enjoyed after leaving Alfred was to return to Alfred representing SUNY Morrisville to present to President Huntington a special citation at the celebration of Alfred's 75th anniversary. The second return to Alfred was for the dedication of the David H. Huntington Administration Building, again representing SUNY Morrisville.

After leaving Alfred, I served for fifteen year as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Executive Vice President at SUNY Morrisville and subsequent to that am serving in my ninth year as President of Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. I can say without hesitation, during this time, I have drawn many times on my experiences at Alfred. Many times in a difficult situation, I've asked myself, now how would Dave have handled this. Hopefully you can see that Dave Huntington has had a very positive impact on my life. I am so pleased that I had the opportunity to work with him and the many other individuals at Alfred. While it is a relatively small part of my total career, it made a huge impact on my life and that of my family. Alfred State College is a special place and both Sue and I offer our best wishes in your Centennial Celebration.