

## Alfred State College Centennial

Name: Ron Putnam

Department: Allied Health

Dates Employed: 1964-1995

Memories:

When I first started teaching at Alfred, I was in the Industrial Building on the Alfred University campus. When we moved to our new Allied Health building, my officemate until we retired was Art Gaisser. Our school calendar was based on the quarter system—a lot of material to be covered in 10 weeks—until we changed to the semester system in the '70's.

One of the events that I will always remember is the day that Hinkle Library opened and all our students and faculty hand-carried the entire library contents to the new building across the valley. That was a sight to see!

Alfred had some unique facilities for a 2-year school, among them a ski slope and bowling alley in the earlier years. About the same time that the ski slope was in operation, I remember taking my family to see the spectacular snow sculptures created by the sororities, fraternities, and other organizations during their winter carnivals.

I remember my wife and I chaperoning some of the parties and dances held either at the Lake Lodge or at the Beacon, half way between Alfred and Hornell when alcohol was legal for 18-year olds (Remember the phrase “down the road”?) It was also about this time that Alfred opened the Pioneer Lounge where students could “hang out” and buy alcohol without endangering their lives by going “down the road.”

Remember the students being required to attend “cultural events” in the gym? Remember when milk in the dining halls was supplied by our own cows from our farm? Or the wonderful flower shows every spring held in our hort center to highlight the talents of our students and to promote our college?

Distance learning has been hailed as a remarkable way to educate students today. But I don't think it's a totally new idea—just a newer way to present information than it was when I taught an A&P class over the phone to students at different sites throughout the region. That was a very different experience—not being able to see each other, but still being able to interact and participate as in a regular class.

One event I looked forward to every year was the nurses' pinning ceremony which occurred the night before graduation. It was an intimate, touching ceremony for the families, friends, and faculty who attended, as well as for the graduating nurses. It was my last opportunity to see former A&P students whom I'd gotten to know so well after having spent so many hours with them in lecture and lab. It was such a pleasure to see how much they had matured and how confident they had become in their own abilities in the course of 2 years.

Name: Virginia Putnam

Department: Student Development Center (among other names!)

Dates Employed: 1976-1995

Memories:

When I started at Alfred, I was classified as an NTP (a nonteaching professional—but one who taught) in the Student Affairs area teaching reading effectiveness and study skills in the Center for Learning Assistance (one of many names and locations on campus). At one time, we were actually placed in the Academic Affairs area where we had much more credibility with faculty. I first started part-time at the Wellsville campus and eventually became full-time (unlike faculty, this was a 12-month position) on the Alfred campus as an EOP (Educational Opportunity Program) counselor until I retired.

Imagine testing 1500 incoming freshmen in the gym and swimming pool on a hot August day! All the tests were scored by hand and results had to be ready for faculty advisers the next day for registration. (Unfortunately, recommendations for placement were not often followed.) That was a long day--and night--for our staff!

When student retention became an issue, we finally convinced faculty that placement testing would help retention, and freshmen orientation and testing became scheduled during weekends in July. The students had activities to acquaint them with the campus and its resources, and we had smaller numbers of students to test. We also went to machine scoring, writing samples scored by the English Department, and placement recommendations that were followed.

During President Hunter's tenure, the new Student Development Center (now named after Dr. Hunter) was built. A campus-wide committee gathered input from all areas to determine what the building should be. I was the chairperson of the committee to develop plans for a Reading Center. The final building housed Reading, Math, and Tutoring Labs, Career and Placement Center, Counseling Center, Crisis Intervention program, EOP and Probation Intervention programs, services for disabled students, and commuter lounge—a one-stop center for all student academic services. We had a building of which to be proud—much more advanced than many other prestigious colleges.