

*The Official Newsletter of
The Women's and Gender
Studies Program
At Alfred University
Volume 15: Issue 1*



THE ALPHADELPHIAN

THE RILEY LECTURE:

"SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AT THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE

***CONTROL EXAMINING THE GENDERED NATURE OF SEXUAL
VIOLENCE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC HEALTH"***

PRESENTED BY DR. KATHLEEN BASILE '91

BY CHEYENNE RAINFORD

The Knight Club in Powell Campus Center was bursting at the seams as the crowd swelled at this year's Riley Lecture on Monday, March 24th.

Dr. Kathleen Basile, an Alfred University alumna (class of '91) and Lead Behavioral Scientist of the Centers for Disease Control, returned to her alma mater last month to speak at the 19th annual Riley Lecture about sexual violence. Her talk provided stunning revelations for everyone in attendance about the realities of violence in American culture.

Though representing only 2% of the CDC's total budget, Basile's division, Injury Prevention and Control, plays a critical role in the struggle to prevent violence in our society. The CDC defines violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person or against a group or community that results in harm."

While Basile's division combats violence in all its forms and with all its victims, her talk focused on sexual violence in particular. "There is a lot of overlap and concurrence in the types of violence a person can experience," Basile explained. Violence can be sexual, physical, or emotional and a person may experience all or combinations of these types at any given time throughout his or her life.

In a controversial study during the 1980s, it was estimated that one in four female college students have experienced rape



Dr. Basile delivers her lecture to an audience of over a hundred students, faculty, and community members in the Knight Club on March 24th

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WGST:

It has been an exciting year for our program. Early in fall of 2013, the Women's Studies faculty voted nearly unanimously to change the name of the program to Women's and Gender Studies. In many ways this change simply reflects what we are already doing, i.e. teaching not only about issues related specifically to women, but also about multiple genders and sexualities. Popular courses in the program such as Lou Lichtman's "Parenting Seminar" and Karen Porter's "Sex and Gender" are just two examples. We hope that broadening the focus of the program will also lead to the development of new courses and to student research projects focusing on issues of gender. The objectives of the minor are to provide a theoretical and practical structure within which to study women's and gender issues; to promote an understanding of

the historical and biosocial contexts that shape our awareness of gender; and to encourage independent reading about and study of women's and gender issues.

Our new name is also reflected in events we promote on campus. The Women's and Gender Studies program co-sponsored a visit in November 2013 during Transgender Awareness Week by Ryan Sallans, a public speaker, diversity trainer, consultant, publisher and author specializing in health care, campus inclusion and workplace issues surrounding the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) community. Organized by Beth Johnson, Sallans's visit was a great success. His classroom visits and public talks were both informative and inspirational.

Also in November, Sandra Singer organized a Women's

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THE ALPHADELPHIAN

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From the Editor:

A million thanks to those who contributed to Volume 15: Issue 1 of The Alphasdelphian! My goal was to create an issue that captured the dedication to feminism and the study of gender that happens all over Alfred University's campus throughout the academic year and especially to highlight those individuals who are representative of the WGST mission. I am proud to be a part of such a wonderful university and program led and inspired by so many passionate faculty members, and to have been given so many wonderful opportunities. I took on this issue as a part of my capstone project for the Women's Leadership Academy, which has taught me to apply my leadership skills toward my passions and dreams more effectively- an invaluable lesson learned. A special thanks to my mentors, Dr. Cecilia Beach and Dr. Julia Overton-Healy, without whom this would not have been possible and to my advisors Dr. Karen Porter and Dr. Robyn Goodman who have guided me along the way!

- Dianna Bennett



Alfred Women (1960's)



Letter from the Director of WGST (Continued from Page 1)

and Gender Studies Roundtable at which representatives from three student groups—SAGE (Students Advocating for Gender Equality), Strong STEMs, and the Society of Women Engineers—discussed issues of concern to their group and their experiences on this campus. We were very impressed by the poise and eloquence of the presenters and with the commitment these groups have shown to improving the lives of all students on campus through a variety of activities, including mentoring programs for women in the STEM fields. The Q&A led to an insightful discussion about how women students negotiate predominantly male peer groups in the sciences.

The 2014 Riley Lecture in March was given by Dr. Kathleen Basile who graduated from Alfred University in 1991 with a Sociology major and Women's Studies minor. Dr. Basile, a lead behavioral scientist at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, received the Abigail Allen Alumni Award in 2012. Her talk entitled "Sexual Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control: Examining the Gendered Nature of Sexual Violence and the Importance of Public Health" was engaging and well attended. We were thrilled that Patricia Riley and Pamela Osborn-Riley were able to join us this year and we greatly appreciate the on-going support that the Rileys have given to this annual lecture series ensuring that it will continue to be a cornerstone for the Women's and Gender Studies program into the future.

In April, the Alfred University Yoga Club, the Women's and Gender Studies program and the Women's Leadership Center joined together to co-sponsor a "Women, Yoga, and the Body" workshop with Loretta Pyles, Certified yoga instructor and Professor of Social Welfare at the University of Albany: "Using a pedagogy of embodied learning, this workshop takes a transformational approach to un-learning oppression and suffering in women's bodies, minds and spirits. Drawing from yoga and feminist philosophy, participants engage in breath work, physical postures, meditation, chanting and group exercises, offering pathways for transformation and healing" (<http://lorettapyles.com/>). The workshop brought together women of all ages and backgrounds—students, faculty and members of the community—for a day of self-inquiry and transformation.

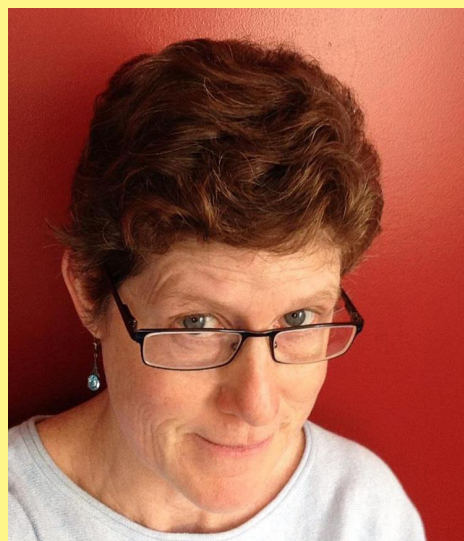
As you can see from the list of courses offered, our program is thriving with courses being offered in a wide variety of

fields. New course offerings this year include Beth Johnson's Human Sexuality, Erin Redmond's course on Cuban film, and Jennifer Griffith's Gender & Organizations, our first course in the Business school and our first online course. Next fall, Luanne Crosby will be offering a course entitled Women's Song/Women in Music, as well as a leading a women's choir, and Rob Reginio will teach a new course on Modernist Women Poets.

I am very much looking forward to the WGST Roundtable on May 2nd at which the graduating WGST minors—Julia Berbling, Ali Garcia, Kelly McNamara, and Hannah Pontewill present their capstone research projects. The final Roundtable is always a joyful occasion as we celebrate the accomplishments of our outstanding students. We will also celebrate the publication of this enhanced issue of the *Alphadelphian* prepared by Dianna Bennett.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the rich offerings in WGST this year and who made my job as director easier, notably Beth Johnson, Sandra Singer, Karen Porter, Robyn Goodman, Amy Jacobson, Michele Gaffney, Dianna Bennett, and all the faculty members who taught courses in our program. Thanks also to the wonderful women in Modern Languages who have supported me throughout the year and to the students who make it all worthwhile.

—Dr. Cecilia Beach



Senior Spotlights

Abigail Allen Student & Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Woman

BY DIANNA BENNETT



After four exceptional years spent at Alfred University, senior student of the Women's and Gender Studies program, Kelly McNamara, is graduating with her bachelor's in Sociology and Communication Studies. The recipient of this year's Abigail Allen Student Award and Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Women of 2014, McNamara has left her mark on the university and it on her. "I promised myself that I would get involved in things only if I was passionate about them" she said., "Everything I've done at AU hasn't felt like extra work because I was always doing what I enjoyed."

As the Diversity Director for the Institute for Cultural Unity, a member of Kathy Woughter's Advisory Council and the Bias Response team, Fiat Lux reporter, peer leader, orientation guide, tour guide, and a student on the planning committee for both senior week and the Alfflie Awards, she is passionate about a great deal. Aside from her involvement, McNamara's class work is reflective of the outstanding student she is. A Women's Leadership Academy and Gary Horowitz Leadership program graduate, a student of the honor's program, and part of several honor societies including Omega Delta Kappa, Pi Gamma Mu, and Phi Beta Kappa, she is a student leader, a known face on campus and a role model for those around her. McNamara has been active in countless students clubs, organizations, activities, and events. In 2013, she cre-

ated, hosted, and performed at an event she called "Girls Got Jokes," which she says was a pursuit of another passion: comedy. Moreover, McNamara has brought feminism to all aspects of her college career, being both an advocate and activist on and off campus.

This year, McNamara's honor's thesis analyses the cover stories of various mainstream magazines published for women since the 1970s, including *Cosmo* and *Seventeen*. "I wanted to examine what kinds of messages are sent to women and how those messages have changed," she said. Research is part of yet another passion that she intends to follow in the future. What she has learned in doing research has helped her in her personal and academic life. She described the experience of working closely with a professor and her academic advisor, Dr. Karen Porter, as becoming like a colleague and invaluable to her preparation for graduate school.

Next year, McNamara will be a graduate student at Texas A&M University in pursuit of her PhD in Sociology with a focus on Women's and Gender Studies in hopes that she will someday be a professor of Sociology and conduct her own sociological research. She has been awarded a full fellowship and will be assistant teaching while she earns her degree. For her, leaving Alfred is bittersweet; she will miss the unique and supportive community, the close friendships she has made, and the inspired students. "The opportunities this school provided have been unreal," she said., "I will forever be grateful to the faculty and students that have helped me at AU. I did not get to where I am on my own."

CONGRATULATIONS FROM PROFESSORS DR. ROBYN GOODMAN, DR. LARRY GREIL, AND DR. KAREN PORTER

Kelly McNamara, Class of 2014, A.U.'s Outstanding Senior Woman, the Abigail Allen Award recipient, and all-around amazing person richly deserves these honors. It was evident to us from the beginning that Kelly would succeed academically. So it was no surprise that she also involved herself fully in the life of the campus and rose in the ranks to become one of the most influential student leaders in our community. Not only through her work as Diversity Director for Student Senate or her work as a peer leader in the FYE Program and in other visible roles, but perhaps especially in her capstone project for her minor in Women's and Gender Studies, Kelly demonstrates her steadfast commitment to understanding gender issues and the place of women in contemporary American society. Beyond her work as a student leader, Kelly's active presence in the classroom is another contribution she makes to the quality of the educational experience on campus. She is a thoughtful, talented, and energetic woman who has clearly left her mark on the A.U. community. So it is with great pride and enthusiasm that we thank Kelly for her contributions and congratulate her on all her accomplishments.

Hannah Ponte



My name is Hannah Ponte and I am an English Literature major and Women's and Gender Studies minor. I first became a Women's Studies minor when I was freshman and took a class with Dr. Melissa Ryan who really was the driving force in my pursuit of the minor and to obtain as much information as I could on the subject of gender inequality. My research in my major accurately reflects my interest in inequality in terms of race, gender, and socioeconomic class. This semester I have been working on a thesis that takes a critical look at the displacement and eventual confinement of the Circassian women that takes place over a span of 2,000 years. My goal as a writer and feminist is to be able to support those whose voices has been removed or silenced over time. We see this even happening now in our country and I personally find it to be an outrage that such outstanding and monumental stories have been omitted from our consciousness. I think that as people thriving in an academic realm we have a personal responsibility to those whose opportunity to have a voice has been robbed of them, both in a historical context as well as a modern one. In regards to future plans, currently I am in the middle of completing the final round of the Teach for America program. Again, my interest in returning a voice to those who have been silenced is a direct correlation to my interest in this program: America is not a place where equality takes precedent over discrimination, yet. However, I believe that as both a scholar and a feminist it is not outside of my power to make a difference. My goal is to continue transforming outside of school and help those who feel slighted transform as well, just as the Gender Studies department faculty helped me when I first entered Alfred University.

Last Letter to H

BY HANNAH PONTE

To the four year old girl who
spends more time
Fixating on the spiraling dust
particles
Than on the geometric shapes
she cannot trace precisely,
Do not feel bad when the
teacher mocks your oval
squares.

Your hands will not always be
this unsteady,
You are simply learning.
And sometimes it is the
crooked paths that end
Up being the most
worthwhile.

To the six year old girl whose
hands
Fidget in church: you are a
creator.
Do not cry because the nuns
call you
Listless to the voice of God

There is no right way to pray.
If the pages of the old hymns
feel better
On your fingertips than the
voice of an aging man
On your eardrums then listen
To what feels most holy to
you.

To the 12 year old girl inside
of me,
Understand that you are not
your mother's brittle promises
Or your father's bland
hostility.
When you collect seashells
from the beach
And arrange them on the
bathroom shelves
In order to create anything
that resembles a home,
Know that it is ok to be
proud of yourself
When your parents cannot
find the words inside their
loneliness.

To the 16 year old child inside
of me
Do not go with what can mur-
der your innocence.
Do not grab onto slippery
foreign glass bottles
Because you believe every hug
and handshake will fall apart.
You are not a reflection of the
worst things you have done,
You are a miracle and a fe-
vered dream of opportunity.

To the 18 year old child inside
of me,
When anyone tells you they
love you
Only accept it when you are
sure you love yourself.
When the heavy hooves of
depression threaten
To trample all you believe to
be true of yourself
Remember the four year old
girl,
Who could find magic even in
dust.

Alexandria Garcia

My name is Ali Garcia and I declared my Women's Studies minor after my first semester. I participated in *The Alhadelphian* that following spring, writing articles and coordinating the meetings. During the spring semester of my sophomore year, I coordinated and painted a mural for the Women's Leadership Academy that commemorates the advocates for women's right on campus. Later I started an informal feminist club on campus. Our primary goal was to create a safe place for women where we could speak amongst ourselves without censorship. Currently I am creating my senior art show that is based off the concept of the gendered nature of exoticism. I am specifying my work by focusing on the dominant Western hegemonic discourse of the feminization of the 'other.' The example I am using as 'other' is the indigenous population of Aztec in Mexico. My medium of concentration is glass. Glass is a material that is classically used as a tool to display objects. I also work with found objects. The objects that I am recontextualizing are bird cages. Similar to an exotic bird, the 'other' is put on display and carries an allure. The 'other' is distanced from the viewer that represents the gaze of the dominant culture. The items that induce this distancing and containment are the bird cage, the bell jar, and the insect box. All of these objects are used to display curiosities, while doing so makes them subject to the viewer. My Women's and Gender Studies capstone project has created a avenue for my art practice and feminist theory to synthesize.

Julia Berbling

This spring, I will graduate with a BFA from the School of Art and Design. The education I have received through the WGST program has heavily influenced my studio practice. Although my work has spanned many topics and mediums, I find myself returning to the same (often feminist) issues, anywhere from queer relationships/identities to my present body of work, which delves into topics and spaces I consider both gendered and forbidden to me as a (queer) woman (i.e. pornography, bathrooms, and brothels). But beyond my personal practice, the WGST program has also challenged me to think about the broader art context I find myself in. In the spring of 2013, I received the Women's Leadership Research Award via the Women's Leadership Center. I interviewed nine female ceramists living and working in China during my time studying abroad. I asked them questions about their professional experiences and personal opinions about Chinese gender roles in the ceramics community. For my capstone project, I have researched the late Cuban and feminist artist, Ana Mendieta. I will discuss her earliest and most provocative pieces and how they function as photography, sculpture, and performance. After graduating, I will temporarily relocate to Ithaca, NY where I have accepted an internship at the printmaking studio, the Ink Shop. Additionally, I am pursuing work in construction for monetary income and to explore the materials I use as a sculptor in a more practical way.



Alfred Women (1920's)

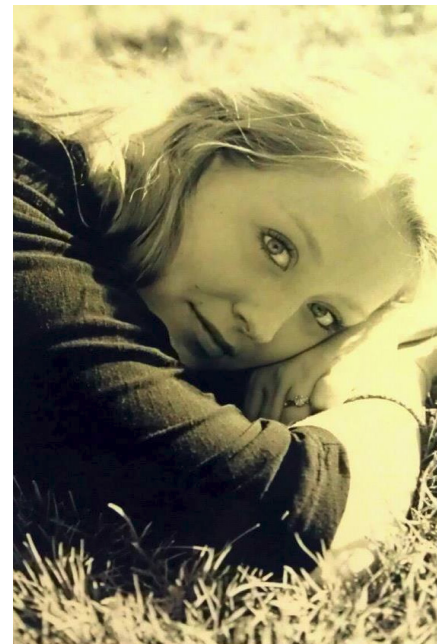
Courtney Smith

I am an Art and Design major, and a minor in both Women's and Gender Studies and Education. Before coming to Alfred University I wasn't interested in Women's Studies and unfortunately didn't consider myself a feminist. It wasn't until I took the Women in Society course my freshmen year at Alfred that my eyes opened to the struggle women went through in the past and are still face today. Repression exists in many forms; I recognized the issue of body image immediately through the media, through commercials, magazines, movies, shows and advertisements. The media has specific ways of presenting how gender is "supposed" to be performed; what clothes, makeup and persona will ensure that you're accepted. I'm fascinated by how these visual approaches of communication brainwash and manipulate the ways which both girls and boys construct their identities.

Sophomore year I took a series of photographs using portraits of men and women where I asked them to write on the photograph their insecurities about their physical appearance. On another copy of the same photo I asked a variety of people to write compliments about the person. After putting both copies next to each other, we realized there were overlapping qualities the person in the photograph didn't like about themselves which other people found beautiful. I separated the photos by specific magazine advertisements that targeted the issues individuals had with their bodies.

For my final research project for school, I will be student teaching at local schools as a part of my education minor. I plan on questioning the students about their hobbies, role models, favorite movies, shows, music, and what role they have in their lives. This will give me a basis of what younger individuals of our generation value most.

After graduation in May I'll be working at Camp Pinecliffe, an all-girls summer camp in Maine. Then, in the fall, I will return to Alfred for student teaching. After, I will leave in December and teach for three years to finish out my Teaching Certification. I also plan on returning to school to get my Masters in Gender Studies.



Alfred University Alumnae

BY LAURIE MCFADDEN

Phoebe Babcock Waite (1838 – 1904) An exemplary example of an early woman educated at Alfred University, Phoebe Babcock White wasn't afraid to step into a traditional role held almost exclusively by men: she became a female physician and later professor and Dean of the New York Medical College and Hospital for Women. Additionally, she was an intellectual, a suffragist, and a staunch supporter of social causes.

Born in Rhode Island in 1838, Phoebe earned her bachelor's degree from Alfred University in 1860. Soon after graduating she began teaching at the Institution for the Blind in New York City. In 1869, she earned her master's degree from Alfred University and then began studying medicine at the New York Medical College and Hospital for Women, graduating with her M.D. degree in 1871. She began working at once, devoting special attention to the study and practice of obstetrics. By 1880 she was a Professor of Obstetrics at the Medical College, a role she filled for eighteen years. For eight of those years she also served as Dean of the College and continued on the hospital staff. In 1879, she received her Ph.D. from the New York Ophthalmic Hospital and College and thenceforth gave much attention to the eye and ear in addition to her other work. This was all accomplished while married to her husband, William Waite, with whom she raised seven children!

... "Not only was she a role model, but as a prolific writer and public speaker, Phoebe was able to express her views and be an advocate for women." ...

As Kathryn Kerns wrote in the book *Sesquicentennial History of Alfred University*, Phoebe "encouraged women to become doctors because she believed it was the only profession in which they could receive 'equal compensation with men.' She was concerned also about the question of marriage and its effect on the career of a woman doctor. She saw no reason for a woman physician to remain single, and she insisted it was foolish for a woman to abandon her practice upon marriage." Not only was she a role model, but as a prolific writer and public speaker, Phoebe was able to express her views and be an advocate for women.

In addition to being well-respected in her field and active in a variety of professional societies, Phoebe was also involved in a variety of organizations supporting social causes, quite often taking a leading role. She served as president

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of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in New York City, was president of the Society for Promoting the Welfare of the Insane, vice president of the New York Legislative League, a member of the New York Equal Suffrage League, and for a time, member of the Board of Managers of the New York Baptist Home for the Aged. And keeping her Alfred connection alive, Phoebe was a long-time member and one-time president of the Alfred Alumni Association of New York. As a lifelong member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, she also supported the church's medical missions in China.

Phoebe Babcock Waite died in New York City in 1904, over a century ago, but let's not forget what a pioneering woman she was and celebrate that her foundation of belief in herself and for the role women could play in society began with her education at Alfred University.

Mary Wager Fisher (1846 – 1915) At the time of her death in 1915, Mary Wager Fisher, a member of the Alfred University Class of 1863, was considered a pre-eminent Victorian journalist in the United States. She lived much of her life in Bryn Mawr, PA and her obituary appeared in the Philadelphia Public Ledger. It said she was “a journalist and writer of national repute” noting that “Mrs. Fisher was one of the most brilliant women journalists of her day. She was the first woman Washington correspondent of the New York Herald and was also on the staff of the Tribune, the World, the Sun, the Evening Mail, and the Daily Graphic. For more than 15 years she was the American correspondent of the Register, published in London and Paris, and was the author of countless poems, stories, and articles. She was a supporter of the feminist movement and knew most of the suffrage leaders. Her political articles were so vigorous and inclusive that they were frequently thought to have been written by a man. Her defense of medicine as a profession for women appeared in the Galaxy in 1868 and brought her national fame.”

As an example, one article she wrote in 1882 for the Christian Union involved her in a national conversation with Henry Ward Beecher, the famous abolitionist preacher in New York City. They were discussing the pros and cons of the proposed Chinese Exclusion Act being considered by Congress. (It was signed into law by President Arthur in 1882 creating one of the most significant restrictions on immigration in US history; it prohibited Chinese laborers from coming to the US and was not repealed until 1943.)

Mary's article “American Women and the Anti-Chinese Bill: A Woman's Protest” outlined her defense of why it was the duty of American women to protest the bill. One argument made by supporters of the bill was that the male Chinese servants would take jobs from the white women in domestic service which was “respectable work” provided to their gender. Losing the jobs would force them to become prostitutes and it would be a threat to the white race. Mary did not agree with the bill and was at the same time pushing for reform in domestic services. She saw the Chinese Question as part of a larger problem that involved social, political, and economic issues.

Mary was married to William Richter Fisher, a middle-class lawyer. Together they were social reformers and active members of the Freeman's Bureau, involved in promoting the education of former slaves. During Reconstruction, Mary taught in freeman schools in Richmond, VA. These values and ideals of social justice were also found at Alfred; it's likely that Mary's beliefs were strongly influenced by her time at the University. In particular, the influence of Abigail Allen who also supported the freeman schools and women's rights.

Mary was also a founding member of the Philadelphia Geographical Society. A collection of her and William's personal papers is located at Duke University. After her death, William endowed the Mary Wager Fisher Literary Prize at Alfred University which is awarded annually to one or more students as a prize for excellence in literary composition.

... “Her political articles were so vigorous and inclusive that they were frequently thought to have been written by a man.” ...



Alfred Lyceum circa 1897

Riley Lecture 2014: (Continued from Page 1)

or attempted rape. Another statistic said that 79% of all people who report being raped say it happened before the age 25. Bearing in mind that these numbers do not account for unreported crimes, Basile reminded the audience that this is “probably the tip of the iceberg” and that “this is happening to young people.”

Among the myriad statistics provided, Basile also offered a word of warning about the victim-blaming trend in American media. She reminded the audience that “most perpetrators are someone the victim knows” and that most people who have experienced sexual violence are re-victimized at several points throughout their lives. Many American crime shows do not portray sexual violence realistically, which contributes to the harmful views perpetuated in news broadcasts and other media—although Basile assured that they are trying to be better about it.

Sexual violence is “complex and hard to prevent,” Basile emphasized, which is why the CDC is “[starting] young in [its] prevention effort.” The CDC is attempting to reinforce ideas of appropriate sexual and physical conduct in children and young adults by teaching them to be proactive and training them to be better bystanders when violence occurs.

In addition to programs for young people, the CDC also uses the Socio-Ecological Model, which demonstrates that changing the behavior of individuals is not enough to prevent sexual violence. The environment must also change if there is hope of any progress. The model breaks

down the social environment in four levels: society, community, relationships and individuals. The idea is that in order to lessen the levels of sexual violence or prevent it, changes must be made on all of these levels, not just the level of individuals. Society must demonstrate an intolerance for such acts; communities must actively strive to reinforce what is and is not acceptable behavior; relationships between parents and their children or teachers and their students must clearly define the difference between right and wrong; and finally, individuals must not tolerate unethical action from one another nor from themselves. In other words, the problem of violence, especially sexual violence, is a systemic, culturally-wrought issue.

Basile stressed all of these points and highlighted the urgency with which people should be addressing the issue of sexual violence and rape in society. Over 1.3 million people in the U.S. (as shown in a 2010 study) suffer the consequences of sexual violence, including psychological scarring and/or PTSD, as they struggle to return to “normal” in a society that adds to their difficulties by too often suggesting that the victim may have been at fault.

The most poignant piece of Basile’s lecture came in one of her simplest statements. Those who experience sexual violence or rape “are not victims. They are survivors.” Perhaps, if society and media adopted this view, larger strides in the effort to lessen and prevent sexual violence could be made.

Abigail Allen Award 2014: Dr. Kerry Kautzeman

BY CECILIA BEACH

Dr. Kerry Kautzman, Associate Professor of Spanish and Chair of the Division of Modern Languages, is the recipient of the 2014 Abigail Allen Faculty Award. Kerry served as Director of the Women’s Studies program at Alfred University from 2008-2012 and as co-director in 2012-13. Under her leadership, the research component of the Women’s Studies minor was strengthened. In addition to presenting their capstone projects at the final Women’s Studies Roundtable, minors now also showcase their projects at the Undergraduate Research Forum. This gives the students an opportunity to improve their communications skills while providing greater visibility to the Women’s Studies program and to the excellent research conducted by the Women’s Studies minors. Kerry worked long hours with a small team of volunteers to produce *The Alphadelphian* when it was no longer offered as a course and she established an office for the Women’s Studies program in Perlman Hall. Moreover, according to Susan Mayberry, “In each role and in her everyday affairs, [Kerry] pays particular attention to the needs of women: female students, female faculty, and female staff.”

Though her doctoral research focused on the treatises of the 15th-century Spanish nun Teresa de Cartagena, Kerry’s scholarship has branched out well beyond medieval Spain. Her keen intellectual curiosity has led her to study, for example, popular fiction by contemporary Spanish women authors, as well as issues of lesbian identity and queer ideology in Spanish women’s cinema. Bringing her research interests into the classroom, Kerry has taught a course on Contemporary Spanish Women Writers and guest lectures on a variety of subjects in the

Women’s and Gender Studies core course, *Women in Society*. Kerry encourages students to develop their critical thinking skills while studying polemical topics in classes like “Porn and Purity”, an honors seminar, and “Bombs and Ballots”, a Spanish topics course exploring Basque cultural production in the context of nationalist terrorism in Spain. In the spring of 2012, she challenged students in a different way, taking them to Spain to hike the Camino de Santiago after studying travel narratives and medieval pilgrimage.

In addition to her tireless contributions in the classroom and at the divisional level, Kerry has served on numerous committees, donating countless hours to assessing and improving the curriculum at Alfred University. Kerry is recognized for her hard work, her strong convictions, and her candor. In her letter of nomination, Mary McGee wrote: “Kerry Kautzman has brought her leadership and Abigail Allen’s voice into our deliberations about our curriculum and our mission as an educational institution, challenging us to have the courage to make changes that will enhance, expand, and deepen learning for our students; often quoting Abigail Allen, Kerry dares us to be ‘radical, radical to the core’.”



Faculty Updates



Cecilia Beach

Dr. Cecilia Beach is currently the Hagar Professor in Humanities and director of the Women's and Gender Studies program at Alfred. This past year, Beach's research has focused primarily on the works of André Léo (pseudonym of Léodile Béra), a nineteenth-century feminist and socialist author. She spent two weeks in Italy in the summer of 2013 researching André Léo's life and works during political exile following the Paris Commune and will return to France this summer to conduct research on André Léo and Marie-Louise Gagneur. Four of Cecilia's articles will be published this year in *Les Vies d'André Léo* (Presses Universitaires de France). She also co-authored an article with Charles Sowerine on André Léo for the *Dictionnaire des créatrices* published in 2013 by les Editions des femmes. Vice-president of the Women in French Association, Cecilia will be presenting a paper at the Women in French conference in May entitled "Souvenirs de guerre: Literary impressions of the Franco-Prussian War and the Commune in Novels by André Léo and Marie-Louise Gagneur." She also prepared a special edition of *Women in French Studies* with Joyce Johnston on "Women and Theater" (2014). Finally, Beach has continued teaching yoga both in Alfred and to inmates at the Allegany County Jail in Belmont.



Erin Redmond

Dr. Erin Redmond's research and teaching interests focus on questions of gender in Latin American literature and film. In fall 2013, she conducted a Women's and Gender Studies course on changing gender norms in Cuban film after the Revolution. In November, Dr. Redmond had the opportunity to travel to Havana, Cuba, where she visited the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry. This semester, she is supervising a Women's and Gender Studies capstone project and conducting a course on women's writings about the dictatorship regimes in Argentina and Chile. In April, Dr. Redmond presented a conference paper on sexuality, psychoanalytic parody, and critique of authoritarian politics in fiction by Manuel Puig, the postmodern Argentine author best-known for *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Dr. Redmond continues to participate actively in AU students' learning outside of the classroom, as proud faculty advisor to Poder Latino and as sponsor of El cafecito, the weekly Spanish culture and conversation hour at the AU Language House.

Lou Lichtman

Dr. Lou Lichtman, who served as Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts from 2004 to 2008, became Acting Dean again in September, 2013. Because of job demands, most deans give up teaching, but Lou has resisted doing that, and each semester continues to teach his two favorite courses, Parenting Seminar and Neuropsychology. That leaves him little time for much else, although he does manage to attend many campus events and every day squeezes in a fitness center workout.



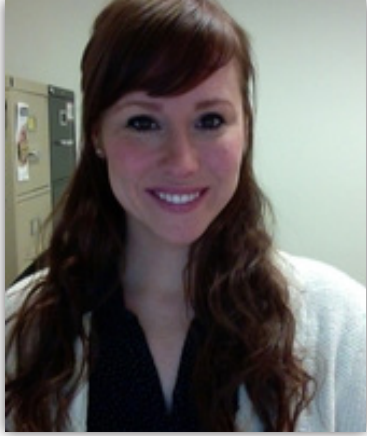
Juliana Gray

One of Dr. Gray's sabbatical projects in 2012 was a series of poems in the voice of Anne Boleyn, King Henry VIII's second wife (out of a total of six, two of whom, including Anne, were beheaded). In 2013, those poems won the Winged City Press poetry chapbook contest, and Anne Boleyn's Sleeve was published in February 2014. In other exciting writing news, Gray won the 2013 Eugene Paul Nassar Poetry Prize, which is awarded annually for the best book of poetry published by an upstate New York author, for her collection entitled "Roleplay".

Gary Ostrower

Dr. Gary Ostrower refuses to retire. Having joined the Alfred faculty in 1969, he is teaching a new course this semester called the History of World War II. It includes the story of Hitler's fanatical women who became essential cogs in the Holocaust machinery. The story is told by Wendy Bower in her stunning book called "Hitler's Furies". he recently delivered a Bergren forum, soon to be submitted for publication, about an AU professor of German who served as a Nazi broadcaster during World War II. This gentleman had renounced his American citizenship to serve the Third Reich. Hatred and fanaticism, Dr. Ostrower reminds us, have no gender.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AU BUSINESS COLLEGE JOINS WGST, OFFERS NEW COURSE “GENDER & ORGANIZATIONS”



Dr. Griffith is an Assistant Professor of Management in the School of Business at Alfred University where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in leadership, organizational behavior, and human resource management. She also works in concert with the Women and Gender Studies department teaching a course in gender equality and diversity in organizations. Her multi-disciplinary work in leadership, emotion, creativity and innovation, and communication applies evidence-based approaches to organizational behavior and human resource issues. Dr. Griffith's research has been published in the *Leadership Quarterly*, *Journal of Leadership and Organizational Studies*, *European Journal of Work and Psychology*, *Creativity Research Journal*, and *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, among others.

Prior to joining Alfred, Dr. Griffith spent time in private and public industry. She has served in numerous leadership positions, including project management positions for externally funded grants and contracts from the National Science Foundation. She also served as project manager and behavioral health specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Previous to

graduate study, she served as an assistant manager for a local chain of college textbook stores whose parent company serves over 1.5 millions students nationally. She has also worked in conjunction with external organizations in a number of capacities, including as a subject matter expert for Prometric, an educational testing and evaluation organization, a job analysis consultant for a small business in the Norman, OK area, and a research partner working on leadership development and career aspirations with a talent management specialist at a Fortune 500 company.

Griffith Reflects on Experience of Teaching WGST:

BY DR. JENNIFER GRIFFITH

“It was eye opening.”

When I saw this comment in the student evaluations for a course I offered during Allen Term, Gender and Organizations, I felt I had achieved my primary goal for the course. Depending on the angle and the source, the impact of gender in organizations is highlighted stereotypically, ignored dismissively, or discussed with degrees of murkiness. The push for gender equality – for women and men – has been dismissed as trouble-making, political correctness, and feminism run amuck. Aside from the obvious oversimplification of the previous attributions, they reek of misinformation. When provided with empirical information and provoked to think critically regarding ambiguous, complex issues of gender equality, it's not surprising that the current state of affairs regarding gender equality in organizations would be... well... surprising. I know it's still surprising to me the blowback that's received when anyone tries to challenge the current system in place.

In fact, while watching a recent TED Talk from Anne-Marie Slaughter entitled “Can We All ‘Have It All?’” on YouTube, my eyes ventured down into the comments left by other viewers. Some were

ferociously positive, hailing Slaughter as a new champion of gender equality in organizational policy. Others decried her as a lunatic, a “stupid bitch”, joined in agreement that her outfit was “hideous”, and offered a cursory insult- “Get back in the kitchen”. So clever. These adventures make me glad my students aren't representative of the population of YouTube commenters.

**... “WE’VE COME
A LONG WAY, BUT
WE’RE NOT THERE
YET” ...**

The first week of the course, I invited students to explore the topic of gender equality in organizations and answer the question “How much progress have we made in the workplace?” The general consensus, I think, was a good summary: we've come a long way, but we aren't there yet. The caveat here bears mentioning - it's difficult to paint everything and everyone with the same broad brush regarding this topic. Like most things in life, gender equality in the workplace is

quite nuanced, and the multidimensional nature of equality in organizations makes it difficult to make broad proclamations about the state of things. It's easy to look at one study, one report, one number, one person in a powerful position and think that inequality in organizations is a thing of the past, and it's equally as easy to do the opposite. It's here, in recognizing the nuances and the sharp distinctions, that I believe people can learn the most, so it's there that I focused the content of the course.

Over the course of five weeks, we discussed social and gender norms and their effect on workplace relationships, verified that there are legitimate differences between men and women leaders, and explored the abysmal failure that is organizational policy to promote gender equality (just to name a few topics). We watched a *Daily Show* interview with Sheryl Sandberg and previewed a short documentary that poignantly highlights the way the media discusses men and women leaders in powerful positions. We tackled difficult questions such as; “If PEW surveys show that Americans think that men and women are equally effective as leaders in different ways, then why do they still say the majority of Americans aren't ready

Continued on Page 12

(Dr. Griffith Continued)

to elect a woman to 'high office?'; and "Why aren't more men offered paternity leave, and why don't those who are offered it, take it?" These questions are obviously difficult and complicated, but the answers to them depend on what we know. As a country, we can pretend that work/family balance is not needed for men because they're traditionally the "breadwinners", but we would be doing the men of this country a disservice by placing them into a gender stereotyped box. We can continue to compare apples and oranges and repeat that women earn .77 on a man's dollar, but we would be blatantly ignoring that this number doesn't get at the heart of the issue (and doesn't actually compare equally qualified men and women performing the same job and the same work). If we are to truly and comprehensively address the gender equality issues at work and in society, we must ask hard questions that might lead to answers about ourselves that we don't like. This course, *Gender and Organizations*, aims to do just that.

Forgive the shameless promotion, but I plan to offer a slightly extended version of this course in the summer that tackles some additional topics. I hope that students will again, take the opportunity to open their eyes to the current state of gender quality and open their minds to the possibilities of the future.

Julia Overton-Healy

Dr. Julia Overton-Healy, Director of the Beth Robinson Judson Leadership Center, continues to serve on the WGST Executive Board. In the 2013-14 year, she was the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Student Leadership Programs Award for Region 2 of NASPA (National Association for Student Personnel Administrators). Dr. Overton-Healy also served as the Region 2 representative to NASPA for the Women in Student Affairs knowledge community. She is a member of the steering team member and the anchor presenter with the Judson Collegiate/Legends Invitational Golf Tournament and Women's Leadership Conference in Atlanta GA (an event spearheaded by Beth Judson's daughter Lauren), and was a featured speaker at the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute in NYC in July 2013. At the AU Judson Leadership Center, she oversees various Women's Leadership initiatives, including the Women's Leadership Academy, the Alpha Kappa Omicron Leadership Awards for Women, and the WLC Research Award as well as many other leadership programs for Alfred's students, such as the Gary Horowitz Leadership Development Program, the ELEAD Scholars Program (for engineering students), and the Saxon Sidekicks mentoring experience for first-year students.

Becky Prophet

Since returning from India one year ago, where she taught theatre, literature, and history to some of India's poorest but most promising youth, Dr. Becky Prophet has continued her work in theatre and in arts activism. In the fall, she and her husband Craig gave several presentations on Artists Striving to End Poverty (ASTEP) and the potential for Alfred's developing artists to use art to help break the cycle of poverty through education, as the Prophets did at Shanti Bhavan Children's Project in India. Dr. Prophet hopes that all arts students and faculty will sometime give some service and learn a good deal through ASTEP with the projects in India, Venezuela, Los Angeles, Dade County Florida, and New York City. During fall semester, with a team of amazing designers and a thoroughly awesome cast, she directed Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. The production was subsequently invited to Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 2 where it was performed in mid-January before an appreciative theatre audience from all over the Mid-Atlantic states. In March Dr. Prophet was honored to teach one session of *Women and Society* under the guidance of Dr. Vicki Eaklor. Another highlight of her spring teaching schedule was her Honors Seminar in Culture and Cuisine, Film and Food. Service learning projects, serving as a board member for the Village of Alfred, and volunteer work as an EMT helps keep this theatre professor busy and engaged in the community—but not so busy that she can't lead the planning to celebrate the fortieth birthday of Alfred's one and only traffic light with a parade, a street dance, costume contest, and selling Traffic Light T-shirts, and, of course, traffic jam.

Robyn Goodman

Dr. Goodman, a World Journalism Education Congress (WJEC) co-founder and executive officer, recently traveled to a Brussels suburb twice to help organize its tri-annual conference. The WJEC, the only organization of its kind, focuses on bringing together university journalism educators and professionals worldwide to share research and discuss how to best train future journalists to cover domestic and international affairs. Her article about the conference's contributions/findings, titled "World Journalism Education Congress Explores Methods for Renewing Journalism through Education," is included in this Spring's edition of the *Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication's* journal, *ASJMC Insights*. She is also working on a WJEC text, which researches journalism education challenges and innovations worldwide.

Dr. Goodman, who developed AU's *Gender, Race, Class, Media* course (COMM/WGST 465), is looking forward to teaching it next term, along with continuing her tradition of discussing relevant gender and minority issues in all of her courses.

She will attend the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) conference this summer in Montreal to present WJEC results, the new editor of the *International Communication Research Journal* (she's heading the search committee) and to begin her term on AEJMC's finance committee.

Luanne Crosby

Professor Luanne M. Crosby, music is currently working on a collaborative performance with pianist J.J. Penna (Julliard, Westminster Choir College) entitled "The French Connection: Music of Les Six and Americans in Paris". The recital which will be performed at a number of colleges next September, features vocal works by Francis Poulenc and Germaine Tailleferre, members of the French turn of the century arts group, called Les Six. Tailleferre was the only female member of this group. The performance also includes works by composers who studied in Paris during the 20th century with noted composer, Nadia Boulanger.

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK 2013

RYAN SALLANS VISITS ALFRED

BY DIANNA BENNETT



Featured keynote speaker Ryan Sallans visited Alfred in honor of National Transgender Awareness Week at Alfred University and Alfred State University on Tuesday, November 18th. Sallans is a speaker, author and transgender activist dedicated to spreading awareness about the experience of trans people at colleges and conferences across the United States. Sponsored by clubs and organizations from both campuses, he brought his unique perspective as a trans person with education and professional training in issues concerning the lives and experiences of trans people. With a sincere, blunt, and sometimes funny demeanor, Sallans delivered quality presentations in classrooms and at the Alfred Village Hall to audiences of students, faculty and community members. He helped clarify the transition process; the thoughts, emotions and decisions different people make when they discover that they were born in the wrong body, as well as the social consequences and risks. In his classroom visits he took questions from his audiences,

seeking to educate rather than lecture and to bring a better understanding where need be. At the Village Hall, Sallans detailed his transition process in more detail including the physical, emotional, and relational challenges with which he was faced. For more information about his life, speaking tours, or to contact him visit www.RyanSallans.com.

THE SIBLEY LECTURE 2013: BISHOP GENE ROBINSON: "Traveling Through Life without GPS: Detours, Decisions and Destiny"

BY DIANNA BENNETT

The speaker hosting this year's Sibley Lecture sponsored by the Division of Human Studies, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Spectrum, and the Institute for Cultural Unity was Right Reverend Bishop Gene Robinson, widely known for being the first openly-gay Episcopal priest. Bishop Robinson, who was elected to Bishop in June 2003, has been thrown into the center of national controversy about homosexuality and religion in the United States throughout his career. He has been active particularly in the area of civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people. Working at the state, national, and international levels, he has spoken about and lobbied for equal protection under the law and complete civil marriage rights. His lecture, entitled "Gay Rights: How We Got Here, Where We're Going, and Why Religion Matters So Much!" at Nevins Theater considered the social interactions and understanding of gay rights and religion throughout history, in addition to his personal experience as a gay priest. Surrounding his discussion were greater philosophical topics like the human search for an ultimate truth, the subjective nature of truth-seeking and spirituality, the fluidity of gender and sexuality (including all forms of human expression), and of course feminism. The audience reacted strongly to his conclusion that heterosexuality, as well as homosexuality, is deserving of discussion and re-definition. To that effect he said that a broader and more inclusive discussion about the fluidity of human sexuality as a whole, whether hetero-normative or otherwise, is necessary for the acceptance of the wide deviation and individuality that inevitably exists. An activist

for AIDS awareness and against, racism, and homophobia, Robinson is the co-author of three AIDS education curricula for youth and adults, and has authored several books, including "In the Eye of the Storm: Swept to the Center by God" and "God Believes in Love: Straight Talk about Gay Marriage." He currently serves as a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress located in Washington, D.C., and as "Bishop in Residence" at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C.



Women's Leadership Center

CAPSTONE PROJECTS:

"ALPHABET SOUP": Cohort member **Katie Wiedminn** created a blog of writings from students dedicated to recognizing and discussing the fluid nature of gender and sexuality. Later in the semester she hosted a discussion group on the same topic. Weidman's goal is to create awareness about the different tools and language people can use in order to identify themselves and break away from strict and limiting categories.

THE ALPHADELPHIAN: Academy woman **Dianna Bennett**, as program assistant to the Women's and Gender Studies Program, dedicated her semester to this issue of the Alphadelphian, seeking to breathe new life into the WGST literary heritage.

"BENEATH THE SURFACE": In a workshop to bring awareness to the cultural diversity on campus and teach students to be more accepting of difference, academy woman **Jasmin A. Ramón** encouraged students to be more aware of what they say and do towards others.

THE "F WORD" PROJECT: Throughout the spring semester, cohort members **Emma Robinson** and **Lauren Brilla** asked students and faculty to define feminism for themselves in hopes to spread awareness about the real meanings of feminist theory and practice. They compiled the answers into a video that was presented on campus and shared via social media sites.

WOMEN IN THE WILDERNESS: Keeping with last year's capstone project, cohort members **Rachel Cook** and **Sarah Richards** recreated a hiking event and series of workshops to teach women and other students how to stay safe and independent while being outdoors. They hope this project will become a tradition for academy members to follow.

WOMEN OF THE WORKFORCE: Annually, the W.o.W conference prepares, educates, and encourages women to feel more confident in their professional lives. Through several workshops and keynote speakers designed by academy women **Jalyn Jones** and **Stephanie Zimicki**, attendees learn the skills and knowledge necessary to be an independent professional person in the modern world.

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE SPEAKER SERIES 2013-2014

BY DIANNA BENNETT

Fall 2013: Sybil McNulty:

The Women of Influence Speaker Series, hosted by the Women's Leadership Center, invites prominent women to inspire and provide guidance to Alfred University students with their experiences, knowledge, and accomplishments. This fall, 1967 Alfred University alumna, Sybil McNulty, lead a discussion in the Judson Leadership Center on October 9th entitled "Traveling Through Life without GPS: Detours, Decisions and Destiny" in which she focused on keeping options open when it comes to employment opportunities and embracing the unknown. She shared her perspectives and experiences from a life that has "meandered from AU as an English major to housewife and mother to major litigator." The idea that they did not have to have everything figured out after college resonated with students. Her message was clear: a Bachelor degree will not define success later in life much like any one choice will not decide a person's fate. For women in particular, McNulty inspired them to learn, grow, and achieve regardless of what seems to have been expected or held them back. Her narrative included attending graduate school years after earning her Bachelor's degree and, upon returning, entering a male-dominated field as a pregnant mother in her thirties. For McNulty, success is merely a function of the relentless determination to achieve a goal.

Spring 2014: Maria Pascucci:

Dr. Julia Overton-Healy invited Maria Pascucci, founder of an organization known as CampusCalm, to give a talk called "Get Perfectly Imperfect and Lead" as the spring 2014 Woman of Influence Speaker in Nevins Theater on Wednesday, April 9th. Pascucci is a certified professional life coach and award-winning author and speaker. She visits campuses across the nation talking about the pitfalls of perfectionism and the pressure to succeed that college students face during their academic careers. A self-proclaimed recovering perfectionist, Pascucci describes perfectionism as "a socially-acceptable, glorified form of self-abuse" that is characterized by a harmful "all or nothing" mindset. Pascucci argued that perfectionism comes from a place of insecurity, fear, and self-doubt. Her presentation offered an audience of students, particularly student leaders, seven tips to remaining confident and empowered in light of achievement, opportunity, and responsibility, and in mistakes and failures. Pascucci's training is centered on empowering women, but her talk proved useful to men and women alike. To close, she left the audience with a mantra to recite when they begin to feel overwhelmed: "I am imperfectly perfect and a powerful leader and I validate myself."



AWARDS

BY JULIA OVERTON HEAALY

Several years ago, the Women's Leadership Center received two gifts, each designed to support AU's women students. One award, the Bernstein Leadership Award, supports students who want to serve un- or underpaid internships, particularly with organizations which are women-owned or that serve issues affecting women and girls. The Bernstein Leadership Award may also be given to students who want to attend a professional conference to advance their career goals. The Bernstein Leadership Award is available to any student, undergraduate and graduate level. Each recipient is required to make a formal presentation at the WLC as evidence of their appreciation for the award, and to share their knowledge. The following students received Bernstein Leadership Awards this year; titles of their presentations are in italics:

Sonya Ellison, internship award, Wellsville Chamber of Commerce, Public Relations/ Media coordinator
Women in Broadcasting: Struggling for Equity

(See page 16)

Elizabeth Shepherd, internship award, Children and Youth Learning Initiative
Why the CYLI is so "Alfred"

Alexandra Feeney, conference award, Glass Art Society Annual meeting, Chicago I
GAS Recap: Why the Glass Art Conference was cool

Kristen Tuxbury, conference award, NASPA Annual Conference, Baltimore MD
Networking at a Professional Conference: Tips and Insider's Insights

Laura Jamison, internship award, Divertir Publishing
Breaking into the Publishing World

Nicole Keenan, internship award, International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, bague, Columbia

The other award, the Women's Leadership Center Award for Research, is given to students who want to conduct academic research on topics affecting women and girls. As with the Bernstein Leadership Award, recipients are required to make a formal presentation of their research.

This year, The WLA funded these projects:

Rosemarie Oakman, Alzheimer's Iron and Glass

Hannah Schilsky, Project FEMME: Iron Art and Women

Sarah Dykstra, Osteogenesis and Osteoporosis

(See below)

Megan Kennedy, Math pedagogy and the impact of environment on girls' mathematical learning
(Ph.D. candidate)

Nicole Keenan, Mentoring, Internships, and Culture: Gender and Engineering

WLC AWARD FOR RESEARCH RECIPIANT:

Sarah Dykstra: Osteogenesis and Osteoporosis

BY SARAH DYKSTRA

Osteoporosis is a disease that affects millions of Americans every day, and is defined as increased skeletal fragility accompanied by low bone mineral density. Women are especially susceptible to this disease after menopause. Postmenopausal Osteoporosis has implications ranging from insignificant bone loss to debilitating hip fracture. By analyzing the biological activities of osteoblasts (bone growing cells) and the process of osteogenesis (bone remodeling), I hope to better understand postmenopausal osteoporosis, and help develop appropriate treatments.

I am currently a senior studying Biology at Alfred University, and pursuing minors in both Biomedical Materials and in Chemistry. I came to Alfred all the way from Bellingham, WA after visiting and being interested in the amount of research opportunities available as well as the access that students have to faculty advisors for research. I never could have guessed that I would have as much access to research as I have, and I have been involved with research in the Biology and Engineering Departments as early as the spring of my sophomore year. This semester I have had the pleasure of working with the Women's Leadership Center on a project specifically related to post-menopausal osteoporosis.

I personally have struggled with a rare genetic disorder called Ehler's Danlos, which affects my joints, making them hypermobile and causing me chronic pain. Though osteoporosis has a different pathology, I am sympathetic to people affected by the body's deterioration. I am extremely passionate about my research because of my past and current challenges.

As a woman ages, the body gradually reduces its concentrations of estrogen. Without estrogen bone formation decreases, while bone breakdown increases, leading to an increased risk of fracture. Estrogen slows bone death by blocking the key cytokine signaling pathways to bone-breaking cells in the body, and therefore increases bone density. The reduction in bone decay leads to a more developed bone matrix, and a more complex crystal structure to the bone matrix. Suppression of the osteoblastic activity creates the opportunity for the maturation of the bone matrix, and for cross-linking to occur, which further strengthens bone.

My research focuses on proteins that are implicated in the process of osteogenesis and osteoblast differentiation. While scientists have been actively pursuing research in this field for years there are still a number of grey areas, which allow for further research. My research could help to find a cure for postmenopausal osteoporosis and also has implications for orthopedic applications.

BERSTEIN LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIANT: *Sonya Ellison: Women in Broadcasting: Struggling for Equity*

BY SONYA ELLISON

In an age of satirical news pundits and social commentary à la *Anchorman*, *The Daily Show* and *Colbert Report*, a glaring gender gap persists. After decades of inequality in broadcasting, I think it's time we recognize and further examine the unique gap that still exists for women. As a recipient of the Bernstein Leadership Award through the Women's Leadership Academy, my goal has been to break through the glass ceiling women face in the business of broadcasting.

"I could be wrong, but I believe that diversity is an old, old wooden ship that was used during the civil war era," lead anchor Ron Burgundy wrongly guessed in the scene of the popular 2004 film *Anchorman*. In the scene, station director Ed Harken explained that KVWN hired Conningstone in order to promote diversity and keep up with competition of other networks.

Today, diversity is present and even thriving in most news outlets, but the issue lies in the voices portraying the serious and important news stories. A 20-year study spanning from 1987 to 2007 found that although network news became more diverse with higher numbers of women and minorities reporting regularly as anchors, the subject matter reported on became softer. Hard news was slowly being replaced with a less serious "info-tainment" breed of news in this age of journalism. The "anchorman effect," the fact that women and minorities are less likely to report on serious hard news stories than white males, is a phenomenon that is demonstrated in the motion picture when Conningstone is given less serious stories to report on, like a cat fashion show. Meanwhile, Ron Burgundy is given hard hitting news stories to report on despite his terrible work ethic.

The factors blocking women from reporting serious news are consistent with the ones in other male-dominated, professional areas. Systematic oppression of women in the workplace continues to hinder professional equality, and journalism and broadcasting are no exception. Wage inequality, less diversity in decision-making roles, and networking practices (both

formal and informal) are only some of the ways in which women are oppressed in the workplace.

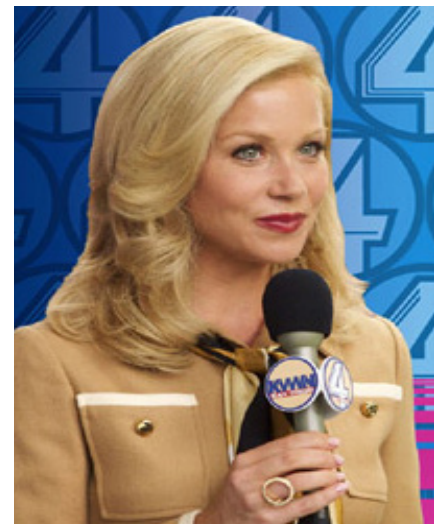
Certainly feminist discourse has railed against these gaps in women's success. In July 2010, the popular progressive comedy news show *The Daily Show* was challenged in an article by popular feminist blogosphere Jezebel. The site published "The Daily Show's Woman Problem" the claiming that the show fell into the sexist habits of the "old boys' club" of classic broadcasting by not hiring enough women on their staff and having only one female correspondent in 2010: television personality Olivia Munn. Munn was the first woman hired by the show in seven years after correspondent Samantha Bee was on board in 2003. Munn's credentials were also questioned and Jezebel also attributed Munn's hiring to her status as a sex symbol. The thirty women on staff at *The Daily Show* collectively responded to the article in the press through an open letter, stating: "The Daily Show isn't a place where women quietly suffer on the sidelines as barely tolerated tokens. On the contrary: just like the men here, we're indispensable. We generate a significant portion of the show's creative content and the fact is, it wouldn't be the show that you love without us."

Like the discrepancies in other professional fields, the setbacks for women in journalism and mass communications have been debated, discussed and researched. However, more research and focus on this issue is necessary. In order to resolve this issue there also must be more widespread public awareness. Though there have been many strides in the advancement of women in media, the impact of gender representation in the press as an institution that oversees news, facts and information accepted as truth by the public is enormously underestimated.

During the winter of December 2013-January 2014 I worked as a marketing intern and event coordinator at the Wellsville Area Chamber of Commerce, generously funded by the Bernstein Award. Native to the Southern Tier Upstate New York

area, my plans in seeking this internship were to build and strengthen my connections in the area in hopes of making an impact in the immediate community and to gain insight in the business-related aspects of local public relations.

I will graduate from Alfred University this year with a dual degree in Political Science and Communication Studies with Public Law minor. My long-term goal is to become an anchor and reporter, starting at the local level. The Wellsville Area Chamber of Commerce helped me get my foot in the door to the world of business and broadcasting. I was able to make solid connections by building strong, personable relationships with our members, who span from the greater Allegany County Area and beyond. Locally, I began building experience and connections with a multitude of professionals. I am confident that now I will be able to move easily into the area's broadcasting field. Ultimately, I want to be a news director for a television news station. I learned the professional practices in both business and public relations. These skills and perspectives I gained as a result of working at my internship funded by the WLC are vital for a woman entering the business-oriented world of media and journalism.



Veronica Conningstone (actress Christina Applegate) from the 2004 movie, *Anchorman*

WLC AWARD FOR RESEARCH RECIPIANT: *Rosemarie Oakman: Alzheimer's Glass and Iron*

BY DIANNA BENNETT

The embodiment of feminism is a women empowering herself and others with an idea. In 2012, sophomore Rosemarie Oakman (now a senior) dedicated her Gary Horowitz capstone project to an issue about which she is very passionate—Alzheimer's. The goal of a capstone project is to enact leadership through a different form of community service projects. A major in Fine Arts and minoring in Gerontology, Oakman set-out to create art for spreading awareness about the disease and how it affects our nation's elderly. Today, her project has grown into a full-blown non-profit organization that is active both nationally and internationally in raising money for Alzheimer's research, all before her graduation this May. Alzheimer's Glass and Iron is a "multi-step, cross-generational community art project designed for art therapy, art-making, and educating the community. Alzheimer's Iron auction benefits the Alzheimer's Association." The organization recruits young artists and other volunteers to spend time painting and drawing with elderly people suffering from Alzheimer's. Afterwards, artists render glass and metal sculptures inspired by art that was created. Most often, the men and women suffering from the disease will not recall making the art and they fail to recognize that the sculptures were inspired by their lives, a fact that Oakman says is still very emotional after hundreds of sculptures made. Volunteers will also spend time with the elderly doing other projects such as making Easter eggs or planting Forget-Me-Nots in flower pots after they've decorated them. On February 13th, Alzheimer's Glass and Iron passionately presented their recent and upcoming projects at a Bergren Forum and encouraged the Alfred community to get involved. If you would like more information about the project and its events visit their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AlzheimersIron>.



Left, Rose Oakman (far left) and the Alzheimer's Glass and Iron crew present the organization's founding, practices, events, and future plans at a Bergren Forum on Thursday, February 13th. Right, Oakman pours liquid metal into molds at the "Pour Your Heart Out" and Alzheimer's Iron Pour charity event at the National Casting Center Foundry in Alfred on Saturday, February 15th

WOMEN, YOGA, AND THE BODY WORKSHOP

BY DIANNA BENNETT

Co-sponsored by the Women's and Gender Studies program and the Yoga Club and with support from the Women's Leadership Center, yogini Loretta Pyles, Professor of Social Welfare at SUNY Albany and a yoga instructor at Hilltown Yoga in Westerlo, New York, was invited to lead a yoga class on Saturday, April 19th. However, this was not an average yoga practice. Twenty-five women spent the early part of their Saturday, thinking about and sharing personal experiences with the transformative nature of yoga. The workshop included not only an asana practice--the poses we usually associate with yoga--but also dancing, chanting, journaling, and lots of sharing. For example, in pairs, women shared what they loved and what bothered them most about their bodies, many finding that inner peace comes from creating a balance within the self. The participants felt a strong connection and sense of community throughout the workshop. One woman said at the end, "we are all together in our suffering and our joy," expressing the very essence of yoga, which means "union".



FEMINISM IN ART AT AU

Featured Artists:

Katie Fortier

Senior student of the school of Art and Design majoring in both art and education, Katie Fortier, draws inspiration from feminism in her art. Her work often uses the female nude in mediums like print and sculpture in attempts to frame the female body in a different way. "The female nude is very prominent in art history but it is very sexualized," she explained. Fortier tries to add a new perspective to the female body; highlighting its strength and flexibility, and the nature of its figure and shape. "Actually, I draw a lot of inspiration from yoga," she said.

Fortier graduates this year and hopes to start a work exchange for yoga instruction. In the future she plans to teach art in schools.



"Mass to Measure", print 2014



Caitlin Langendorf

Also graduating this May, senior Caitlin Langendorf is majoring in Art and Design. She describes her artwork as feminist and says she finds inspiration in feminist work by other artists. Her most recent project started with making dolls that would be customized to fit men's needs and desires, but eventually her focus shifted to discrete body parts such as feet, hands, and, mostly, butts. Langendorf has created over 20 different butts out of a ceramic mold, each decorated with different paints and fabrics. Her designs are not highly sexualized and are intended to comment on the coming of age of women in our culture. "They have a dress-up element and a humor to them," she said smiling. Behind her sat an array of butt sculptures decorated with tutus, glitter, lace, and lingerie. She intends to display her designs in a store-like setting with "cheesy elevator music" and rotating shelves. In her work she tends to explore issues of body image and insecurity.

After graduation, Langendorf hopes to attend a master's program for art and to someday teach art.



Saving the Planet with Art

Primarily a ceramic sculptor, junior of the School of Art and Design, Shahane Sahakian also does wheel-throwing and print-making. Regardless of the medium, all of Sahakian's art work engages with contemporary issues within the community and on a global scale, including feminism. Recently her work has focused on "global awareness of animal rights and conservation." She makes "a conscious effort at appealing to the human empathy regarding endangered animals." In April, Sahakian organized a silent and live auction in the Women's Leadership Center from which all proceeds were donated to the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF). This spring, she took on the challenge of building full figure animals, first creating a lion and transforming it into a planter, then building a life-size baby panda. Sahakian writes: "My motives for doing such sculptures to be sold at auction is to spread awareness about conservation to get myself and others more involved. This is the only Earth we have and it's dying. We need to understand small changes make paramount changes when we work together." In the future, Sahakian will be working with recycled materials including discarded clay and broken materials from shelters and gardens.

Sophie Neslund

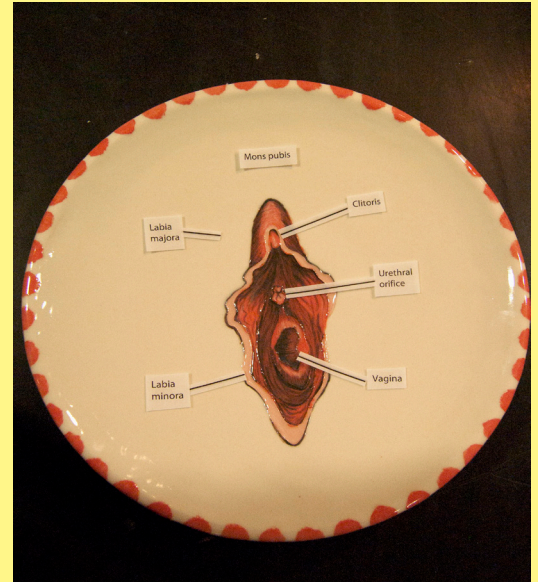
Senior from the state of Michigan, which she describes as the “barren wasteland for art.” Sophie Neslund is interested in the science behind doing ceramic art and inspired by hyper-realist artists and art. Majoring in Art and Design, Neslund’s work is some of most in-your-face feminist art on Alfred’s campus. She says her feminism mostly comes from her mother who is “very girl power,” but also from “actually experiencing the hierarchy and inequality” in our society. “As a woman, you have to deal with patriarchy every day,” she said. Her pieces “Head of the Table” (shown right) and “Hide and Seek”, both part of her senior project, directly comment on that social hierarchy that exists between men and women. “The plates are a reference to the maternal instinct or domesticity that comes with having a vagina,” while the phallic sculptures comment on how that dynamic is still controlled by patriarchy.

“For me, [feminism] is important especially in regards to women’s reproductive rights and legislation. Women are getting told by the people in power (a.k.a. old, white men) how to use their bodies, or told what they do or do not have to house in their bodies (a.k.a. children). And that entire process

is baffling to me, that men who will never even have to worry about becoming pregnant or even accidentally pregnant, or pregnant from rape, are telling us what we can and can’t do, and mostly due to religious ideology that we may or may not believe in. A lot of my work centers around the idea that the expectation of women to have children also largely plays into this idea of ‘Well this is what you’re made for’, regardless of our own individual wants or needs.”



“Head of the Table”, ceramic, 2014



“I AM NOT A FEMINIST”

BY JESSICA MCCALLOPS

I am not a feminist. When I first came to college I said these words.

In the Bible belt state where I came from the word was an insult, a scandalous whisper about a girl who was like the gum you’d find on the soles of your brand new shoes. They were annoying women who were termed as aggressive, bitchy, and, how could we forget, angry. They were the women who just couldn’t seem to shut their mouths, or stop themselves from burning their damn bras, whatever the hell that meant. They were more like myth than reality.

Then I came to Alfred and ended up taking a class in feminism and, on the first day, my friend called me to ask about it, and I told her, “Yeah, don’t worry though, I’m not gunna become a feminist or anything.”

I lied.

What I didn’t realize then was that I was already a feminist; I just didn’t know it yet. And I think so many other people are in the same situation. My best friend, from the south, thinks I’ve turned on her. She expects my bra to come flying off in flames at any moment. She recently told me, “I’m sorry, but no matter how much of a super-feminist you’ve become, I will never become a feminist.” But then she added, “Though I do have to say it pisses me off when my bible-study group talks about women being submissive to their husbands.” And I laughed and kindly informed her that, “See? You’re already a feminist.”

There is a misconception that in order to be a feminist you have to be angry at men. Or that you have to be angry in general, ready to go on a topless protest in front of the white house, to fly off the handle at a moment’s notice. When really that’s not what feminism’s about at all.

The basis of feminism is equality. We are not fighting against men, but against the systematic oppression. Of course that phrase sounds scary: “systematic oppression”. It’s like the feminism warning alert. The non-feminist eject-from-conversation button. I used to roll my eyes at it. So I’ll put it in a less ‘angry’ way.

Feminism is about wanting the same treatment a man gets. It’s about not being looked down upon because you don’t want to be a mother, or because you do want to be a mother and have a job too. It’s about not being called a slut for acting the same way as a man, or not having to worry that what you wear will bring you unwanted attention. It’s about being a leader without being called bossy, bitchy, or pushy. It’s about no longer being sexualized objects, no longer being held to impossible beauty standards, and no longer being subverted and so much more. It’s about breaking down the walls, not just for women, for men too, and not just for heterosexuals but the whole spectrum. Idealistically feminists strive to receive the same treatment and recognition as men do.

And, if you believe in even one of those things then I’ve got news for you; you’re a feminist too.

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES COURSES 2013- 2014

FALL 2013

CUBA – FILM AND REVOLUTION (WMST 200), ERIN REDMOND
GENDER AND LEADERSHIP (WMST 201), JULIA OVERTON-HEALY
PARENTING SEMINAR (WMST 320), LOU LICHTMAN
SOCIOLOGY OF SEX AND GENDER (WMST 346), KAREN PORTER
HUMAN SEXUALITY (WMST 351), BETH JOHNSON

ALLEN TERM 2014

GENDER & ORGANIZATIONS (WMST 300), JENNIFER GRIFFITH

SPRING 2014

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WOMEN WRITERS (WMST254), SUSAN MOREHOUSE
MULTICULTURAL AMERICAN LITERATURE (WMST256), MELISSA RYAN
PARENTING SEMINAR (WMST 320), LOU LICHTMAN
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PRACTICUM (WMST475), JULIA OVERTON-HEALY


SUMMER 2014

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FALL 2014

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GENDER AND LEADERSHIP (WMST 201), JULIA OVERTON-HEALY
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"Be radical, radical to the core."

-Abigail Allen