

## Literary Timeline at AU Combines Beauty with History Lesson

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Alfred, NY -- Visitors to Alfred University's Seidlin Hall will notice an addition to the lobby and main staircase -- wall hangings that are much more than just decoration. A timeline of literature, nine panels representing periods from Classical Antiquity to the Modern Period, now papers the staircase wall. Each panel is almost four feet high and 32 inches wide, and contains a timetable and full-color images of writers and literary landmarks. The installation was designed by Arielle Rodriguez, an art-and-design junior with concentrations in graphic art and printmaking. She was the winner in a competition for the students in Design Professor Fred Troller's spring course in information graphics. The daughter of Fernando and Maureen Rodriguez of Nyack, NY, she comes from Nyack and graduated from Clarkstown High School South. English Professor Ben Howard, who served as project director and liaison with the design class, is delighted with the result. "There is a different color for each period -- the Romantics are red -- with images accompanying the texts," he said. "The series is striking and handsome and should make a dramatic difference in the ambience of Seidlin Hall. We hope it will also enhance the students' historical awareness." That last comment refers to the impetus for the project. Last fall, as the English Division revised its curriculum, professors mentioned the students' lack of historical grounding. "For example, an Honors student, in an essay ... alluded to Samuel Johnson's remarks on the Romantic poets -- remarks that could not have been made, since the Romantics came along 50 years later," Howard explained. "My colleagues had similar experiences." Spanning 2,500 years, the timeline includes Classical Antiquity, the Medieval Period, the Renaissance and 17th Century, the Restoration and 18th Century, and the Romantic, Victorian, and Modern periods, plus American literature and Irish literature.