

Morehouse receives Abigail Allen Award for faculty

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Susan Morehouse, associate professor of English and a former director of Alfred University's interdisciplinary Women's Studies Program, is this year's recipient of the Abigail Allen Award for AU faculty and staff. Morehouse, who teaches creative writing, "has contributed in myriad ways to the lives of women at Alfred and beyond," said Dr. Vicki Eaklor, professor of history and last year's recipient of the award. "A highly successful Director of the Women's Studies Program for three years, Susan Morehouse expanded that curriculum and encouraged women in the sciences to work in Women's Studies," said Eaklor. "As an advisor of numerous Women's Studies minors and an advisor to the Alpha Phi Omega, Susan has served as an enlightening guide to some of our finest student writers and activists, while the honors theses done under her guidance invariably have been of the highest quality and thoroughly grounded in feminism." "In her 15 years at Alfred, Susan has demonstrated her consistent advocacy of women's and feminist perspectives through her teaching and campus service," Eaklor said. "She has taught the core course in Women's Studies, Women Writers, and many other courses in which women's voices matter, in the classroom, and in the literature; in addition, successful women writers are often featured in a writers' workshop she created, and she is valued as a mentor to junior faculty." Eaklor lauded Morehouse's efforts to have Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" produced on campus as a joint project of the Division of Performing Arts and the Women's Issues Coalition. "Produced and directed by students under Susan's guidance, the performances and related sales raised more than \$3,000 that was donated to national and local organizations working to stop violence against women," said Eaklor. "In this way Susan's ideas, contributions, and ability to motivate others made a difference in the lives of women at Alfred University and in many other places." "Susan Morehouse, in her own quiet way, teaches us all to raise our voices in power and pride," Eaklor said. Abigail Allen, wife of AU's second president, Jonathan Allen, "dedicated her life's work to advancing the cause of coeducation and encouraging women to pursue higher education. In doing so, she contributed immeasurably to improving the quality of women's lives on our campus and in the wider community." "The Abigail Allen Award is presented each year to a faculty or staff member who has contributed to the Alfred University campus and the community by "improving the lives of women's lives today and whose exceptional efforts deserve recognition." "The award is particularly noteworthy for the Alfred University community because AU, founded in 1836, was the first institution of higher education in New York, and only the second in the nation, to educate women on the same basis as men. Morehouse joined the AU in 1990, after five years as an instructor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. A graduate of Hampshire College with a B.A. degree with concentrations in theater arts and creative writing, Morehouse earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from the University of Virginia.