

CELEBRATING 35

The Alphadelphian

WGST

Spring 2019

RADICAL YEARS



From the 2019 ALPHADELPHIAN Editors



Carrie Dugan is currently a sophomore Fine Arts major with a focus in painting. Along with painting, she is passionate about social justice, specifically those issues pertaining to women and gender. As she progresses as an artist, she hopes to visually address problems relating to gender inequality. Alfred University's Women's and Gender studies program has given her the ability to learn more about the oppression women and non-gender conforming individuals are facing nationally and globally. She has taken several rewarding classes, such as Intro to Social Justice and Intro to Women and Gender studies. Currently, she is in the Women's Leadership Academy, a year-long program that promotes leadership skills while investigating the influence of gender. Being very involved in the Women's and Gender studies program at Alfred, she was ecstatic when she was asked

to help create this newsletter and promote the program in the community. Working on this newsletter has given her greater access to the program and the opportunity to participate in vital professional events and networking.



Logan Gee graduated from Alfred University in 2018 with majors in English and Communication Studies, and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies.

For this newsletter, Logan and Carrie decided to focus on the Riley Lecture and the 35th anniversary of the Women's and Gender Studies program on the Alfred University campus. This is Logan's second year helping with the *Alphadelphian*, and recognizes her favorite part of the process as working with InDesign to layout the newsletter.

Currently, Logan coordinates Alfred University's APEX program, but she recently accepted the position of Assistant Director of Student Activities and Orientation at Nazareth College. While she is excited for this new position and adventure, she is sad to be leaving Alfred University after spending a total of five years here as a student and professional.

The Alphadelphian is now partially supported by the Riley Fund for Women's and Gender Studies. The image for the cover was designed by Anna Wisbey '20 Art & Design major.

The photo on the right is of Pearl Dick '98 during her glassblowing workshop while on campus for her Riley Lecture in March.



THE ALPHADELPHIAN

Letter from the Director, Luanne Crosby	4
2018-19 WGST Classes and Roundtables	5
2019 Abilgail Allen Award Winner	6
The Riley Lecture	7
Pearl Dick '98	8
Celebrating 35 Years of WGST	10
From the Women's Leadership Academy	13
New to Alfred WGST: Mallory Szymanski	14
WGST Faculty and Staff Updates	15
The Women's March 2019	18
WGST 101 Billboard	20



From the
DIRECTOR
Luanne Crosby

Visitors of Alfred at Open House are often surprised to find Women's and Gender Studies residing in the Performing Arts booth. But then, that's the beauty of Alfred where a Physics professor can be the lead in a musical, History professors teach percussion and librarians speak about Wonder Woman and how to make maple syrup. We are eclectic!

One of my colleagues might have accused me of having the "Helium Hand" as I took on the mantle of Director of WGST. This is a condition where the hand rises as if attached to a balloon and usually occurs when a volunteer has been requested and the room goes suddenly silent and everyone starts looking through the notes they haven't been taking. If this was the case last spring, I don't regret being attached to that balloon. This has been a wonderful experience, working with a dedicated and excited executive

board and facilitating all that WGST does for our campus.

I need to give a huge thank you to my predecessor, Laurie Lounsberry McFadden, who left the office so well organized and has always been there to help when I've had questions. The WGST executive board has been fabulous and we've been so lucky to welcome our newest faculty member, Mallory Szymaniński into the fold. With Sandra Singer coordinating the Roundtable series, Robyn Goodman's handling our public relations and Melissa Ryan coordinating nominations for next year's Riley Lecture, my job has been easy. It's been a pleasure to work with Angus Powers and Hope Childers to bring Pearl Dick, our 2019 Riley Lecturer to campus.

As we celebrate 35 years of Women's Studies (now Women and Gender Studies) at AU, I feel very honored to find myself aligned with such

a strong and dedicated faculty. As I gaze at the cover of last year's *Alphadelphian*, I remember the people who are no longer with us but were such a force in advocating for women and our LGBTQ community like Vicki Eaklor, Gayle Walker, Matt Mueller and Carol Burdick. Their spirit is still with us and I can imagine their hands guiding the young people who are attracted to our program.

Last but certainly not least, I'd like to thank Logan Gee and Carrie Dugan, our co-editors of *The Alphadelphian*. These amazing young women came in with exciting ideas for celebrating 35 years of WGST at Alfred University. All of the additions and changes that you find in this edition came directly from their energy and dedication to this project. It's been such a pleasure to work alongside these two, who really do embody our program's motto "Be Radical, Radical to the Core!"

FALL 2018

WGST COURSES

FYE GIRL POWER

Professor Susan Morehouse

GENDER AND LEADERSHIP

Abigail Griffith

SOCIAL WELFARE INSTITUTIONS

Dr. Karen Porter

HISTORY OF SEXUALITY

Dr. Mallory Szymanski

PARENTING SEMINAR

Dr. Louis Lichtman

SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILIES

Dr. Karen Porter

SPRING 2019

WGST COURSES

WOMEN AND GENDER IN SOCIETY

Dr. Sandra Singer

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PRACTICUM

Abigail Griffith

US WOMEN'S HISTORY

Dr. Mallory Szymanski

PARENTING SEMINAR

Dr. Louis Lichtman

GENDER AND ART HISTORY: FEMINIST ART IN A GLOBAL FRAME

Professor Hope Childers

WGST 2018-19 ROUNDTABLES

September 7

Weaving from Waste: Entrepreneurship as a Tool for Social and Environmental

Impact in Holyoke, MA

with Katy Moonan, Founder and Director of Artesana

Artesana is an organization that recycles materials (tee shirts, etc.) to make art, specifically pillows and rugs, woven by refugees and immigrants (mostly, if not all, women) in Holyoke Mass. Katy began teaching English to the immigrant population there and it has grown into this wonderful organization.

October 5

Meet the Americans Who Still Don't

Have Clean, Running Water

with George McGraw, Founder, Executive Director of Dig Deep

This roundtable was supported by students participating in the Navajo Water Project with Professor Michele Hluchy. The topic explored, in part, the overlap of gender and issues concerning Native American populations in this country.

November 9

Speak Up! – Midterm Elections

An open discussion about the Midterm Elections and the results.

February 1

The Women's March – January 2019

People who attended any of the marches were encouraged to come and share their experiences. Also discussed was the current controversy surrounding some of the key organizers of the March in DC and various reactions to this controversy.

April 5

Women in STEM Fields

Inamori School of Engineering students, Nurila Kamar ('19) and Amber Smith ('20), will be speaking about their recent research trip to Kazakhstan and Dubai, as they discuss the recruitment and treatment of women in STEM fields both on campus and abroad.

2019 ABIGAIL ALLEN *Award winner*



Laurie Lounsberry McFadden

Can you tell me a little bit about yourself?

I grew up in the local area on a small family farm, where I now live. I started at Alfred University as a ceramic engineering student in Fall, 1987 and ended up graduating from the College of Business in December, 1991. During my time, I worked in Herrick Library and discovered my passion for libraries and local history. That led to my decision to get my masters in library science. I was blessed to be able to return to campus as a professional in 1993 where I've been ever since.

What made you want to join the Alfred Community?

I loved my time as an undergraduate and have thoroughly enjoyed being able to work at the University for my career. I love the students, the community, the history and the overall mission and goals of higher education.

What facilitated your interest in women's and gender issues and what concerns are particularly important to you?

One of my minors at Alfred University was what was then called Women's Studies. That began my ever growing understanding and awareness of issues surrounding women and gender overall.

How significant is the Women's and Gender studies program at Alfred University, how is gender equality encouraged in the community?

The program is inter-disciplinary and involves faculty, staff and students from multiple areas which means that it's embedded throughout the

entire university and the voices that support gender equality come from all corners. The program is solid and definitely has potential to be even stronger. The program is fortunate to have an endowment that supports the annual Riley Lecture which brings amazing speakers to campus.

In what ways are you involved in the Women's and Gender studies program here at Alfred?

I've been on the Advisory Board for a number of years and was the program director from 2015-2018. I often give lectures related to the history of women's equality at Alfred University and the history of women in higher education.

What does receiving the Abigail Allen award mean to you?

It's such an honor to receive the award and have my name listed with other faculty and staff that I either took classes from or have been able to work with. Everyone contributes in various ways to the program on campus by raising awareness of the need for ongoing discussion and education of women's and gender issues. One of my heroes is Abigail Allen so receiving an award named in her honor is also very exciting!

How do you want the Women's and Gender studies program to grow and progress at Alfred University?

I would love to have additional faculty, staff and students involved in the program, new classes listed as WGST courses, more students signed up for the minor and for it to be better funded so that it can provide additional programming and sparking of intellectual discovery than it already does.

The RILEY LECTURE

FOR ALMOST 25 YEARS, remarkable women with diverse talents and personalities have shared their story with the Alfred community. From brilliant professors, such as Jill Nelson who taught journalism at City College of New York, bright scientists like Kathleen Basile, and creative geniuses such as comedian DeAnne Smith, a wide array of women have come to speak and participate in the university (both Basile and Smith are Alfred University graduates). Although varying in academic backgrounds, all of these women emphasize the impact of gender in their work, a critical focal point unifying all Riley Lectures.

The Riley Lecture has deep roots in the early feminist movement. The Lecture honors Alfred graduates Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley (1936) and Charles Riley (1935). Elizabeth received her degree in mathematics and went on to teach in Amherst, NY. She was an active feminist and a member of the National Organization for Women. In 1986 she received NOW's Women Helping Women award. Elizabeth and Charles daughter's Pamela Riley Osborn, (graduated Alfred in 1962), Patricia A. Riley (graduated Alfred in 1965) and Melissa Riley sponsor the lecture series. To honor both their parents and their ideas, the Riley sisters created the Lecture series to promote incredible women, completing the memorial Charles had planned for his wife before he had passed.

The lecture series has had a profound and lasting impact on Alfred University. It ignites interest in the Women's and Gender Studies program by bringing reputable women from differing academic fields to speak and be involved on our campus. This year we specifically highlight the arts, as we have Pearl Dick '98, talented glass artist and co-founder of Project Fire, discuss her community-involved practice.

Past RILEY LECTURES

1996 Dr. Ronnie J. Steinberg
The Economic War Against Women: The Material Bases of Rhetoric and the Politics of Containment

1997 Jane Middleton-Moz
From Legacy to Choice: Healing the Effects of Generational Trauma

1998 Allida Black
First Women: Power, Image and Politics from Eleanor Roosevelt to Hillary Rodham Clinton

1999 Jill Nelson
Mammy No Mo': Women of Color Creating Positive Identity in a Hostile Culture

2000 Patricia A. Riley
Dangerous Liaisons: Sex, Substance Abuse, and Violence

2001 Virginia Rasmussen
An Environmentalist Comes of Age: The Patriarchal Corporations' Assault on Everything Good Under the Sun

2002 Victoria Elizabeth Wells
Population, Power, and Progress: How Women in Developing Countries are Champions for Change

2003 Susan Cahill
Brave Women Writing: Voices That Could Change Your Life

2004 Ruth Perry
Novel Relations: The Transformation of Kinship in Eighteenth-Century England

2005 Vivian Lowery Derryck
Forgotten Wars, Abandoned Lives: Reclaiming Peace in the 21st Century

2006 Rose De Carlo
Scientific Discovery: People, Politics, and Pressures

2007 Vivyan Adair
Poverty, Higher Education, and the Politics of Representation

PEARL DICK

Glassblowing and Healing Trauma: A Queer Woman of Color's Feminist Approach

GLASSBLOWING CAN HELP heal trauma in Chicago's inner city youth, AU alumna Pearl Dick told a crowd of nearly 200 on March 27 in Holmes Auditorium.

"The focus that glassblowing requires can help shut out the drama of everyday life," she said.

Dick gave this year's Women's and Gender Studies Riley Lecture, "Glassblowing and Healing Trauma: a Q u e e r

Woman of Color's Feminist Approach." The 1998 AU graduate, who now lives in Chicago, runs her own public glass studio. She began by telling the audience about her background as a queer Chinese-American woman and how that influenced her art. She says that her identity has shaped how she views the larger art community.

She co-founded Project FIRE in 2015 to help traumatized youth in the city. FIRE stands for Fearless Initiative for Recovery and Empowerment. She has expanded the program since then, and now has 21 young men enrolled. The program helps participants recover from traumas they experienced early in their lives. Each of the students is a gunshot victim. Project FIRE is designed to help them build skills, develop a more positive future outlook and heal.

She does all of this through teaching them to blow glass.

Glassblowing builds trust, Dick says.

"Blowing glass is hot, it's dangerous, and we have to work together to keep each other safe," she added.

This segues into participants trusting one other outside of glasswork. Each Project FIRE session combines three hours of glasswork and one hour of group therapy. After working with hot glass, the participants feel comfortable enough to open up about the traumas from their childhood. She says talking helps them heal.

Along the way, the program gives the participants a more positive outlook, she adds.

At first, most can only imagine dying or going to jail. "After just one session their answers expand," Dick says.

The skills Dick's students develop can help them outside of Project FIRE. Their work is shown in galleries and they attend conferences nationwide. They also sell the art they make in her studio. They keep most of the money, but some goes to Project FIRE. She says that giving money to the program helps them feel a stronger connection to it.

Project FIRE also helps teach the students how to deal with loss, she added.

"Every artist has experienced loss in the form of a





failed piece,” Dick said. “Broken vases can be a starting point to discuss death.”

She told the story of one student who had a vase shatter, but turned it into a new piece. He built a wooden coffin, and put the broken shards in it. The other students joined in, adding their broken pieces to the coffin.

This opens the door to talking about other kinds of loss they have experienced, Dick says.

In addition to being gunshot victims, some have lost family members or are in wheelchairs. One member that Dick talked about was in a coma for eight months when he was 13. The members of Project FIRE are able to discuss their traumas through the program.

Project FIRE helps participants take ownership of their lives and experiences.

“These programs help shift the narrative from victim to advocate,” Dick said.

They are able to use the skills they learn to teach one another both about glass and about overcoming trauma, she said. They work with one another both in and outside the studio. Through their work in Project FIRE, the students make new paths for themselves and avoid the violence they experienced before.

The students are big contributors to the program in other ways as well. The art they sell helps fund the program, and they helped build the studio from scratch. Dick says that taking an active role in the program helps them take ownership over it and makes them more committed.

The best thing Project FIRE does, Dick added, is build relationships.

“What’s most important is the idea of people’s connection bringing us closer together,” she concluded.

Dick is working hard to continue growing her program. Since 2015, Project FIRE has expanded from five to 21 young men. She is also working on starting a Project FIRE for women, and says she would like to continue growing both programs. For more information, visit <https://www.projectfirechicago.org/>.

Article by Matthew Hill '19
Images from www.PearlDick.com

Past RILEY LECTURES Continued

2008 Casey Stangl
The Good, the Bad, and the Pretty: A Woman Director in American Theatre

2009 Leisa D. Meyer
Speaking Sex: Woman ‘Talking Back’ about Sexual Knowledge

2010 Meda Chesney-Lind
Girls Going Wild: Facts and Myths about Girls’s Violence

2011 DeAnne Smith
Amusing, Alliterative Title: Then a String of Academic Words like “Paradigm”, “Mechanism”, and “Identity” (or how Feminists can be Funny)

2012 Hédia Ouertani-Khadar
North African Women: Arab Spring, Tunisian Revolution Activists and Women’s Rights Warriors

2013 Liz Abzug
Women, Power and Politics in the 21st Century

2014 Kathleen Basile
“Sexual Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control: Examining the Gendered Nature of Sexual Violence and the Importance of Public Health”

2015 Nadine Strossen
“Sex, Gender, and Civil Liberties on American College Campuses”

2016 Valerie Naranjo
“Breaking Gender and Cultural Boundaries: A Conversation with World-Renowned Percussionist Valerie Naranjo”

2017 Charlotte Bunch
“Fighting For Global Women’s Rights”

2018 Roberta J. Cordano
“Creating a Sense of Belonging: Musings of a Deaf Woman College President”

Started in 1983, the Women's and Gender Studies program (originally established as the Women's Studies program) was established with hopes for students to not only have the opportunity to learn about issues relating to women, but also allow students more exposure to female professors.

In the 1980's, it was found that only about 10% of Alfred University's faculty were women. Compared to today's well over 40% female faculty population, this number was incredibly low for an institution that prided itself for being coeducational.

To address the situation, Dr. Louis Lichtman, profes-

sor of psychology and then assistant dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences, and John Foxen, then dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences, gathered a group of faculty and staff together to explore the possibility of an interdisciplinary Women's Studies minor. By December of 1982, the minor was proposed and approved, and the university started offering courses for the minor the following semester.

Dr. Gail Walker, who at the time was an assistant professor of psychology in her second year at Alfred University, agreed to serve as director of both the minor and the emerging program. She did so until 1987, and in

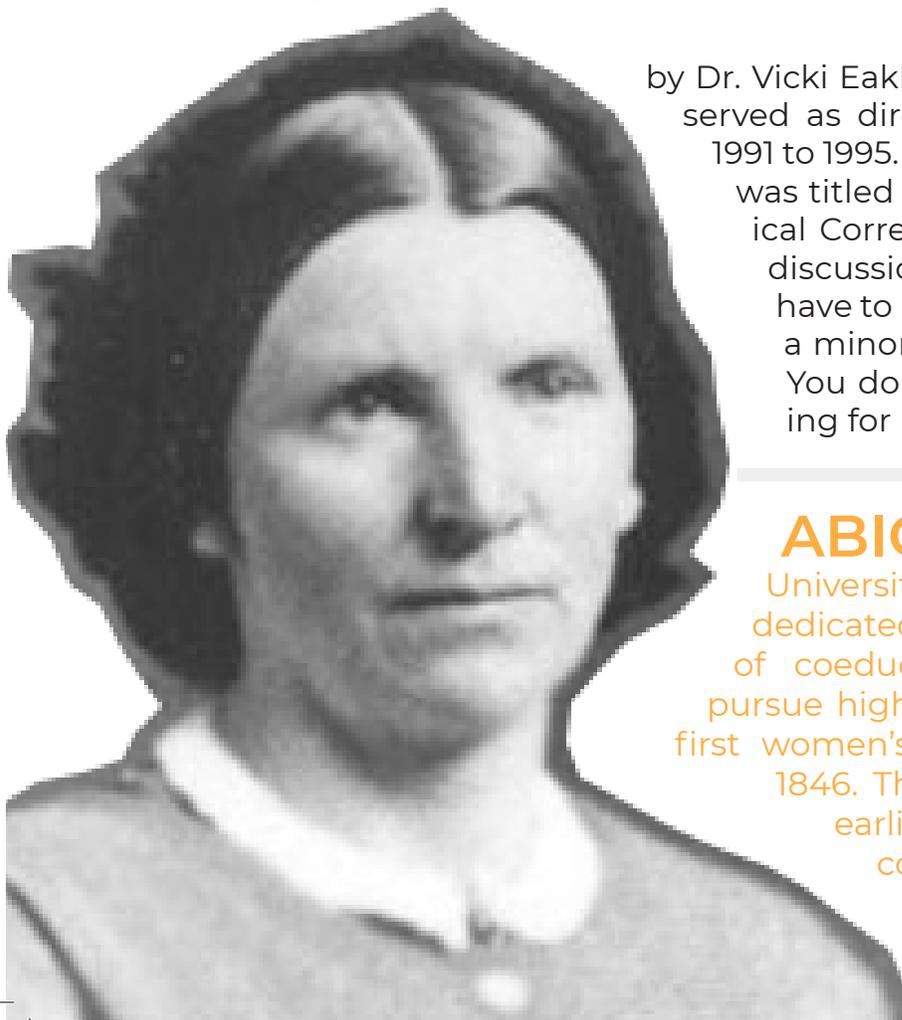
her five years as director established a huge following of students and taught women's studies courses that included Psychology of Women, and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention.

When Dr. Walker's term as director was up, Dr. Susan Mayberry, professor of English, took on the role of director from 1987 to 1991. During this time, faculty started to come together to discuss a feminist text or topic on Saturday mornings in Susan Howell Hall. These informal discussions provided the framework for the official roundtable discussions, which were established in 1991

CELEBRATING

3

by Dr. Vicki Eaklor, professor of history, who served as director of the program from 1991 to 1995. The first formal roundtable presentation was titled "Feminism, Women's Studies, and Political Correctness," and when advertising this first discussion to the public, Vicki wrote, "You don't have to be a women's studies faculty member, or a minor, or a student to attend the discussions. You don't even have to be female... We're looking for people interested in women's issues and



ABIGAIL ALLEN, wife to Alfred University's second president, Jonathan Allen, dedicated her life's work to advancing the cause of coeducation and encouraging women to pursue higher education. Abigail founded Alfred's first women's organization, The Alphadelphian, in 1846. This society is recognized as one of the earliest women's literary societies in the country. Today, Abigail is considered a "founding mother" of Alfred University.

DR. GAIL C. WALKER, professor of psychology, was the first director of the Alfred University women's studies program. Known for her "legendary" teaching excellence and her deep caring for students, "Doc Walker" directed the program from 1983 to 1987. When asked if she was a feminist, Dr. Walker replied, "Am I a feminist? Of course. A feminist works toward equal rights for all people. How could a person choose to be anything else?"



women's studies." This inclusiveness was and still is a characteristic of the women's and gender studies program at Alfred.

Soon after the establishment of the formal roundtables came the inaugural Riley Lecture on April 11, 1996. As mentioned in a piece previous to this, the Riley Lecture series is made possible by a gift from the Riley Sisters—Pamela Riley Osborn (AU class of '62), Patricia A. Riley (AU Class of '65) and Melissa Riley in memory of their parents, Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley and Charles Riley. Both Elizabeth (AU Class of '36) and Charles (AU Class of '35) were active

5 RADICAL YEARS

alumni of the University. Elizabeth, in particular, was a local activist with interests in the economic and political issues affecting women of her day. Elizabeth's daughters thought it was both fortuitous and exciting that the inaugural lecture was on a topic that corresponded so closely with their mother's own interests, and invited Professor Ronnie Steinberg of Temple University, who delivered a lecture titled "The Economic War Against Women: the Material Bases of Rhetoric and the Politics of Containment."

Next, a newsletter and yearly awards were added

to support the program's efforts of spreading awareness for women's issues and building community throughout Alfred and beyond. The *Alphadelphian*, the women's and gender studies newsletter, was conceived and brought to life by Megan Allen, class of '98. With the first issue being published in 1997, Megan raised the level of awareness across campus about the program and used the newsletter as a forum to teach about Alfred's history. By naming the newsletter after Abigail Allen's 19th century literary society, she knew each issue would be a reminder of Allen's legacy.

The Abigail Allen awards

came out of an idea from Pamela Lakin Strong, Associate Librarian Emerita, who suggested that the Women's Studies Program institute an annual award named in honor of Abigail Allen. Allen dedicated her life's work to advancing the cause of co-education 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. It was decided that awards would be given to a member of staff or faculty, a women's studies minor, and an alum who contributed to the campus and community

Past WGST PROGRAM Directors

1983 - 1987

Gail C. Walker

Division of Psychology

1987 - 1991

Susan Mayberry

Division of English

1991 - 1994

Vicki Eaklor

Division of Human Studies

1995 - 1999

Karen Porter

Division of Social Sciences

1999 - 2002

Susan Morehouse

Division of English

2002 - 2004

Cecilia Beach

Division of Modern Languages

2004 - 2008

Laura Greyson

Division of Social Sciences

2008 - 2012

2012 - 2013 *co-director*

Kerry Kautzman

Division of Modern Languages

2012 - 2013 *co-director*

2013 - 2015

Cecilia Beach

Division of Modern Languages

2015 - 2018

Laurie Lounsberry McFadden

Herrick Library

2018 - *Current*

Luanne Crosby

Division of Performing Arts

35 RADICAL YEARS *Continued*

by improving the quality of women's lives. Though the alumni award is no longer given out, the staff/faculty and student Abigail Allen awards are given out every year at Alfred University's Honors Convocation.

Of the first awards, the first faculty/staff Abigail Allen award was given in 1999 to Carol Burdick, adjunct professor of English and the first student/alumni award was given to Megan Allen '98.



Pictured from left to right: Robyn Goodman, Susan Morehouse, Pamela Lakin Strong, Vicki Eaklor, Patricia A. Riley, Pamela Riley Osborn, Karen Porter, Sandra Singer, and Sharon Hoover.

Finally, in 2004 \$250,000 was donated to the University for a campus women's center, by Beth Robinson Judson, an Alfred University alumna, who originally donated the gift anonymously.

Today, the women's studies minor and program are known as the Women's and Gender Studies minor and program. With a clear focus on inclusivity and objectives that include the promotion of awareness of issues related to women and gender in society, the Women's and Gender Studies program of Alfred University instills in each of its minors a reminder be just as Abigail Allen said -

*“Be Radical,
Radical to the core!”*

An update from the **WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP** Academy

This year, the Judson Leadership Center proudly welcomed the thirteenth cohort of the Women's Leadership Academy.

Members of the current cohort include:

Caroline Burgos - Senior, Global Studies & Political Science

Carrie Dugan - Sophomore, Art & Design

Simone Ferguson - Sophomore, Art & Design

Tiffany Gannon - Senior, Art & Design

Samantha Gomez - Senior, Art & Design

Shannon Mendola - Sophomore, Business Administration

Lisette Portes - Junior, Psychology

Jasmin Sullivan - Junior, Psychology

Gabrielle Warren - Senior Psychology

Emily Wright - Senior, Ceramic Engineering

This year's cohort was also joined by our dedicated WLA intern, Shannon Ortega (Cohort 12), who offered invaluable support throughout the spring semester as students worked diligently to complete their capstone projects. Cohort 14's capstones included a diverse assortment of projects ranging from orchestrating the return of Relay for Life to AU's campus to a Disney movie night designed to help unpack problematic stereotypes surrounding representations of women in film to an event for first year women of color designed to address natural hair care and homesickness in the first semester. Carrie Dugan even played a crucial role in helping assemble this edition of the Alphadelphian! Students in this year's cohort also participated in an impressive array of activities including intensive leadership workshops, guest speaker events, exclusive leadership dinners, and an evening with this year's Pamela Lavin Bernstein Women of Influence Speaker, Celine Cousteau. The WLA is currently recruiting the JLC's fourteenth WLA cohort and preparing for their yearly graduation ceremony. The JLC will be celebrating the accomplishments of the WLA's many graduates over the past twelve years at this spring's JLC Advisory Board meeting.

Why I'm in the **WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP** Academy



CAROLINE BURGOS

Class of 2019

Major: Global Studies & Political Science

Minor: Marketing & Cultural Anthropology

I actually joined WLA because of Paul Vecchio, our Athletic Director, who nominated me! As someone with some influential pull over growing college athletes, it was important to me that I acquire knowledge and skills that would improve my ability to teach about the importance of diversity and equality. I am heavily involved with Alfred University Swimming & Diving, and am a captain of the team and manage our social media. I am also extremely invested in Saxon Circle as one of the first founding student athlete members, and plan on continuing to support my team through the program. After I graduate from AU, I plan on coming back in the fall to earn my Master's degree in the Business Administration program. There's nothing that compares to being a Saxon!



New to the WGST PROGRAM

Mallory Szymanski

ALFRED UNIVERSITY'S newest history professor, Mallory Szymanski brings with her a passion for not only teaching history, but also professional wrestling and paper crafting; interests she says generally surprise people.

"As an outspoken feminist and anti-racist, I find it will sometimes shock people when I tell them I love professional wrestling," Szymanski said.

Ohio-born and Florida-raised, Szymanski has always wanted to be a teacher and found her love for history in a high school classroom.

"I had a great history teacher in high school who really challenged me. He was so animated and exciting, which sparked my interest," Szymanski said.

With this interest, Szymanski decided to complete her bachelor's degree in history and English at the University of Florida.

Her passion for women's and gender studies though, was not discovered until her junior year of college, when she took a women's studies course and realized that feminism was something she could actually study.

"I've always been a rebel, which was very 'feminist,'" Szymanski said. "So when I realized I could actually study feminism and women's studies, a light bulb went off."

Szymanski went on to complete her master's degree in women's studies at the University of Florida, and her PhD in U.S. history at the University of Florida.

After spending almost 20 years in Florida, though,

Szymanski decided to start looking for her next adventure and found Alfred University. With its small campus and liberal arts focus, AU would offer Szymanski an experience she had not encountered before.

"Alfred is different from anywhere I've been or worked," Szymanski said. "It's full of new opportunities and adventure, which is exciting."

According to Szymanski, most notable of her new experiences are buying winter clothes and boots, and finding an unexpected appreciation for the unpredictable western NY weather.

"I think it's a good sign that I was sad when the snow was melting," Szymanski said.

When she's not on campus, Szymanski can be found doing a number of things, such as exploring one of

many nature trails in western NY or wandering around the public market in Rochester, NY. Most surprising though, are Szymanski's interests in paper crafting and professional wrestling.

"I enjoy taking old postcards from my father's collection, none of which are super rare, and using the rad images for greeting cards," Szymanski said. "I love snail mail and sending these cards to friends."

As for her interest in professional wrestling, Szymanski says, "I found a great independent wrestling scene in Rochester. I like it because as a spectator you can be so

close to the action, and can even be a part of the show."

In considering her personal and professional plans for the coming year, Szymanski expressed that she wants to expand the offerings in history at Alfred University and hopes to develop a history course with a study abroad component.

"I want to provide students with history courses that are more global, and racially and ethnically diverse," Szymanski said.

Szymanski is also working on a book about the medicalization of men's sexuality in the late 19th century, which is connected to the

period of rapid industrialization experienced in America. Her research is rooted in the way men were talking about sex and their experiences with sex during this time, and Szymanski hopes to complete the manuscript in the next year.

With almost one year down at Alfred University, Szymanski is excited for what is to come as she continues her time not only at AU, but also in western NY.

"Western NY has a different sky and different nature, and I'm loving it." Szymanski said. "I can't wait to see what more is to come."

FACULTY & STAFF

Updates from select WGST faculty and staff



Professor Hope Marie Childers teaches Art History classes in the School of Art and Design, including a popular spring semester course called Gender and Art History: Feminist Art in a Global Frame. Cross-listed as a WGST class, the course examines 20th- and 21st-century art and media that engage with feminist and gender issues. Every year around 12 guests from the campus and village community are invited to join the class and engage in dialogues with students about art, feminism, and current events related to gender and social justice.

As part of this spring's lineup of weekly guests, two former students return to Alfred to share their knowledge and experience with the class. On March 20, Charlotte Ryan (AU BFA 2014) conducted a candid Q&A session on issues that impact the transgender community, including cultural representation, politics, healthcare, and more. She is currently a gender therapist with her own practice in New York City. In April, Lillian Rodriguez (AU BFA 2015) discussed recent shifts in museums toward inclusivity and social justice in the wake of the #metoo phenomenon and emerging efforts to "decolonize" museum collections and exhibition spaces. Currently pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts degree in the Museum Studies program at the Harvard Extension School, she is the Education Coordinator at MASS MoCA.

When she's not on campus, Professor Childers enjoys cooking with friends, knitting, taking long walks with her husband, and watching films.

FACULTY &

Dr. Pamela Schultz, Professor of Communication Studies, published a book chapter with co-author John Douard, an adjunct professor at Rutgers and full-time criminal defense appellate attorney in NJ, in 2017 called “Asperger’s Syndrome and Downloading Child Pornography: Why Criminal Punishment is Unjust and Ineffective” in *Caught in the Web of the Criminal Justice System: Autism, Developmental Disabilities, and Sex Offenses*, edited by L. A. Dubin & E. Horowitz. As a follow-up to that chapter, she was asked to present a paper at the XXXVI International Congress on Law and Mental Health, which takes place on July 22-26, 2019, in Rome, Italy. Her presentation is titled “Empathy, Autism, and Revisioning Sex Offending.”



For the upcoming Fall 2019 semester, Dr. Schultz is putting together a new class called “Public Speaking and Civic Engagement,” which will be cross-listed with Communication Studies and Social Justice Studies. In May 2018, she was recognized for 25 years of service at Alfred University. On the personal front, on June 24, 2019, Dr. Schultz will be celebrating her 24th anniversary with her husband, Brien Pye. Her daughter Eileah will be a junior at Case Western Reserve University in Fall 2019 and her son Brysen will be entering 9th grade in Fall 2019.



Dr. Becky Prophet, Professor of Theatre, directed *Men on Boats* by Jacqueline Backhaus and William Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* during the 2018-19 academic year. The satire of *Men on Boats*, where all the roles were played by women, and the power and stormy contemplation of *The Tempest* nearly in Shakespeare, provided two very different challenges for actors, crews, designers, and director, for a very satisfying year in theatre. Becky is also a member of the Women and Gender Studies executive board. Research interests currently center on the Women’s Suffrage Movement in comparison with the rise of Feminism in the mid-1960’s and the contemporary political activism of millions of Americans. There is a play, or many of them, in all of this!

Dr. Karen Porter, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Criminal Justice Studies Program, is offering a new course this semester called “Power, Privilege, and Inequality.” The course is cross-listed with Sociology and Social Justice Studies and will be offered each spring. Porter developed the course to expand the sociology offerings covering intersectionality theory and its application to the study of systems of oppression and privilege. Currently Porter is working on a research project that explores pedagogies for teaching the sociological significance of intersectional identities.



STAFF

Updates from select WGST faculty and staff continued



Dr. Kerry Kautzman, associate professor of Spanish, represented Alfred University at the “5th International Seminar - Revisiting African Decolonizations: 50 Years of Independence in Equatorial Guinea” hosted by the Center for Afro-Hispanic Studies in Madrid, Spain from July 2–13, 2018. She presented “El legado de la generatividad en Ekomo de María Nsué Angüé” or “The Legacy of Generativity in María Nsué Angüé’s Ekomo.” UNED’s Centre for Afro-Hispanic Studies (CEAH) has the sole objective to promote and to coordinate multidisciplinary research of the Afro-Hispanic populations of the world, as well as to disseminate – through education and publication – the

results of that research. From the Centro’s website: <https://estudiosafrohispanicos.com/> She continued her work with the Equatorial Guinean literature in the fall attending with Alfred students two lectures and dinners at SUNY-Geneseo with LGBTQ activist and award-winning writer Trifonia Melibea Obono and with Tutu Alicante, activist and director of EG Justice.

Dr. Robyn Goodman, professor of communication studies, published a new book, *Critical Perspectives on Journalistic Beliefs and Actions: Global Experiences* (Routledge, 2018), co-edited with Pulitzer Prize winner Eric Freedman (Michigan State) and Elanie Steyn (University of Oklahoma). She is gearing up for the World Journalism Education Congress (WJEC) in Paris this summer, at which she will chair the Syndicate Program—onsite groups producing research on how to improve journalism education worldwide. She proudly took part in the inaugural Common Ground program, in which professors, administrators and staff teach new students about sensitive race and class issues and AU’s dedication to inclusivity and social justice. And she’s looking forward to teaching her Gender, Race, Class and Media course next term!



Dr. Rob Reginio, associate professor of English, currently serves on the WGST Executive Committee. In the fall, he taught his seminar on Virginia Woolf for the program. His students in that course curated an exhibit of Woolf archival materials at Herrick library highlighting her relationships with other women writers of her time and her reimagining of the place of women writers in the canon of English literature. An essay of his on teaching modernist women writers will be published this spring in a collection from the Modern Language Association Press.

THE WOMEN'S

BACK IN 2017, a group of us from Alfred were thrilled to head to DC to join millions of others for the first Women's March. We were all dealing with the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election. Our group included: Sol Fernandez, our Fulbright teaching assistant from Argentina; Cecilia Beach (French), Kerry Kautzman (Spanish), and Nicole Munkwitz (Environmental Studies). We were able to stay at my sister's house outside of DC. The next morning, my sister, and her daughter and several friends joined our group, which somehow managed to stay together for the entire inspiring (if at times confusing) march. This year, Sol had long ago returned to Argentina, Cecilia was returning to Rwanda for the rest of her sabbatical and my sister was no longer in DC, but Kerry and Nicole and I decided to march again. Kerry and Nicole were each eager to bring their daughters to the march this time. Then we heard about the controversy surrounded the organizers of the March in DC.

This controversy seems to have its roots in the very first organizational meetings for the 2017 March. It includes horrific anti-Semitic statements and actions by some of the key organizers. It also includes charges of financial mismanagement. After reading about this, Kerry, Nicole and I met to discuss whether we still wanted to march. We ultimately decided that the purpose of the march was greater than the actions of a few of its organizers. Unlike at the first march, I decided I would need to identify myself as a Jewish woman at this march. I created a poster that made that obvious.



Kerry Kautzman, Nicole Munkwitz, Amanda Khodorkovskaya, Emma Wolf, and Sandra Singer at the Women's March in Washington, DC.

Before the march, I was also fortunate to be able to have a discussion that included Cecilia Beach, Luanne Crosby, and Mallory Szymanski, our new colleague in history. Mallory was able to provide historical insights that put this current controversy into perspective. I include the entire statement she later prepared for a Women's and Gender Studies Roundtable about the controversy, because every part of her statement was significant:

One of the strengths of the women's march is its intention to be inclusive of women and allies to create solidarity around women's liberation. One of the consequences, however, is that this unity and inclusiveness can obscure the very real differences women have among themselves regarding their political concerns and objectives. It can further erase the history of racism, homophobia, and classism that historically characterized women's movements, from women's abolitionists, to the suffrage movements, to second-wavers in the 1960s and 70s.

For example, heroes of the suffrage movement, such as Susan B. Anthony, publicly made remarks and clung to views of white superiority; yet the contributions of black feminists to the movement are hardly mentioned in history books. In the early 20th century, white feminists working for the vote sidelined the needs of black women and even segregated their marches to appeal to Southerners whose support they needed to get suffrage on the ballot. When the 19th Amendment was finally ratified, it did nothing to alleviate the barriers to voting Black women and men faced in the South under Jim Crow. Some historians contend that black women couldn't truly exercise their right to vote in any impactful way until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These examples illustrate that in the US, we have a history of exclusion of black feminists by white feminists that informs women's organizing even today.

Furthermore, there's a history of prioritizing the needs of white women as if those needs were

MARCH 2019 *Despite it All*

the universal needs of all women. The Combahee River Collective famously wrote in 1977, and I paraphrase, that black women's goals are not the same: they cannot prioritize women's rights over racial justice because they are invested in both. These black women also said they could not advance women's rights at the expense of men, because as black people, they shared an oppression together with men that bound them in the struggle for liberty. Feminists of color have persistently been trying to teach white women that their struggle is different, that universal womanhood is a myth, and it seems as though their voices are all too often drowned out.

It is within this history that Tamika Mallory works and speaks; she inherits a long history of straight, middle-class, white women in positions of leadership who falsely assume all other women's lives are like their own. And knowing this history helps me to resist an urge to condemn her. I'm more interested in considering the bigger picture: how white feminists too often have blinders on that convince them that their feminism is the best one, and women of color have been trying to teach us to think about power in shades and matrixes. What are my blinders? How can I find out what I don't know?

While I can certainly understand how seductive it can be, especially lately, to want to skip to a future of global harmony where all women enjoy full equality on their own terms. But the reality is, we don't all agree about what equality means, let alone how to get there. Feminism is plural word, and the women's march is no exception. In order for me, a white feminist woman, to understand more fully,

I am challenged to listen to what Tamika Mallory is saying, to read feminist writing by women of color, and to really consider what it looks like to have multiple roads to feminist liberation.

Finally, Roxane Gay talks about the "feminist pedestal," which she describes as a tendency to hold feminists to a higher standard than anyone else. When they make a mistake, or hold conflicting values, people turn on them and say "AHA! See, feminism is nonsense because not even you can adhere to your own values." Perhaps the feminist pedestal can be used as a weapon to discredit feminism by first assuming all feminists think alike, and then by just waiting for one of us to "slip" so they can decry the entire movement as a farce. I'm wary of the feminist pedestal. Not all feminists think alike, and if I turned on my feminist friends who didn't share every view exactly as I did, I wouldn't have anyone to march alongside, and the whole movement would dissolve. Let's not give our opponents the satisfaction of watching us self-destruct.

At the march, we were joined by Nicole's mother and two other members of our AU community, Amanda Khodorkovskaya and her colleague, Emma Wolf. Although there were far fewer people at this march, there was the same excitement as women and girls started to converge on the subways and streets of DC. It felt good to stand strong for women's rights at a time when significant parts of the federal government are working hard to undermine and destroy those rights. During that weekend, some of us were able to stay on the Gallaudet University campus, where we were welcomed by Roberta Cordano,

the president of Gallaudet and last year's Riley Lecturer.

During the march, several women approached me, because I had identified as a Jewish woman. One woman was the leader of a major Jewish women's group in the DC area. She said that the problems with anti-Semitism had been there from the very beginning, but she had still decided to march. She noted that several of the organizers were supporting the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions movement against Israel (a movement which I strongly oppose). She said that a separate march in DC had been organized by a group called "Jewish Women of Color," an organization, which she had never heard of before. Other women were happy to find another Jewish woman in the crowd.

I think Mallory's statement gives us a lot to consider as we go forward trying to build solidarity with all women. The attack just this past October on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, which claimed eleven lives and caused injuries to seven others, brings with it fear of further violence against Jews. The anti-Semitism of some of the DC Women's March organizers is unacceptable in any context. Under this current administration, white supremacists have felt themselves empowered, which creates more fear. How will we find a way to stand together to protect our rights and not succumb to fear and hatred? This march of 2019 seemed like a good place to start.

Article: Sandra Singer and Mallory Szymanski

Photo submitted by Sandra Singer

Luanne Crosby
Director, WGST Program
Performing Arts
Alfred University
1 Saxon Drive
Alfred, NY 14802



For four years now, the Women and Gender in Society class, taught by Dr. Sandra Singer, has designed billboards individually and then come together as a class to choose the best one to display outside of Alfred. This year, the winning design was created by junior Art & Design majors **Amy Kozlowski** and **Mackenzie Slater**. The billboard is located on Rte. 21 and will be displayed until the end of April.