



# The Alphadelphian

The official newsletter of the Women's Studies Program at Alfred University

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Spring 2005

## Tolhurst's Troopers Strengthen WMST Program

In the fall of 2004, the Curriculum and Teaching Committee of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences made a historic decision. It approved WMST 470: *The Alphadelphian*—a practicum in writing about women's issues. WMST 470 is the first course at AU to award academic course credits to students working on *The Alphadelphian*.

In the past, one or two students produced the Women's Studies newsletter to complete a senior thesis requirement, a structure that limited the variety of issues the publication could cover and the variety of perspectives from which issues could be reported. Although WMST 470 might seem a natural outgrowth of the tradition going back to 1997 of producing a Women's Studies newsletter, the faculty and administration were not certain that there was sufficient student interest in *The Alphadelphian* to produce a fully enrolled course. Nevertheless, Dr. Fiona Tolhurst (Division of English) agreed to teach the course, and the Registrar included it in the spring 2005 course offerings.

In response to this listing, eight women joined the *Alphadelphian* staff for the spring of 2005: Crystal Craft (Communication Studies), Adrienne Eglinger (Communication Studies), Beth

Glutz (Psychology), Meg Gray (BAFA), Crystal Lehman (Track II WMST), Sara Schnick (History/Theatre), Abby Tripp (English/Communication Studies), and Jen Unislawski (Communication Studies). Seven of them completed the course.

These seven women, a.k.a. Tolhurst's Troopers, produced both this newsletter and the new Women's Studies Program webpage, which will go live on August 20. When the *Alphadelphian* staff began its work in January 2005, there were several obstacles to overcome: documents connected with AU's Women's Studies Program were in disarray because they had been moved from one faculty office to another with as the Directorship changed, back issues of *The Alphadelphian* were not accessible through the Herrick Library reserve desk, and information about the Program had been preserved mainly through oral history and *The Alphadelphian* itself. The staff met with Professor Karen Porter to get that oral history, and then its members got to work. Crystal Craft located all back issues of *The Alphadelphian* in Porter's files, and then she and Meg Gray worked with University Archivist Laurie McFadden to identify and fill in the gaps in the documents McFadden had already collected. This work also involved locating

the flyers from past Women's History Month celebrations as well as putting together a list of the Directors of the Women's Studies Program. As a result of their hard work, what documents survive of Women's History Month celebrations from 1987 onwards have been archived. In addition, a full set of back issues of *The Alphadelphian* is now archived and available both at the Herrick Library reserve desk and on the new WMST webpage.

Every staff member made a substantial contribution to this issue of *The Alphadelphian*. Crystal Craft covered Take Back the Night and interviewed several faculty members to discover how they view the significance of celebrating Women's History Month. Adrienne Eglinger interviewed two new WMST faculty members, gathered information about our WMST minor, and served as one of this newsletter's layout editors. Beth Glutz interviewed WMST alumnae and surveyed College of Business students to discover the degree of student interest in Women's Studies courses in that college. Meg Gray investigated abstinence-only sex education programs and compiled historical information about women at

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## Riley Lecture at Alfred University

Americans can wield their power to fight the "just wars" of the twenty-first century.

This was the message brought to Alfred University by Vivian Lowery Derryck, Senior Vice President and Director of Public-Private Partnerships at the Academy for Educational Development, when she presented the 10th annual Riley Lecture on Women's Studies on April 4 at the Powell Campus Center Knight Club. Her presentation was titled "Forgotten Wars, Abandoned Lives: Reclaiming Peace in the 21st

Century."

"You live in the most powerful nation that the world has ever known," Derryck told the audience. She explained that power takes two forms: hard and soft. Hard power is the type traditionally associated with war, whereas soft power is characterized by diplomatic and humanitarian efforts. "We wield hard power in Iraq and Afghanistan," she said. "Hard power doesn't yield the desired results."

Soft power is necessary because of the changing definition of war.

Traditional wars and wars of opinion are no longer the only types of conflict. "We have civil wars, we have guerilla wars and, of course, the war on terrorism," Derryck said. "War in the 21st century is likely to be an amorphous war with no fixed address," she added.

Developing countries, particularly in Africa, have been hardest hit by contemporary wars. They have received less attention from America than the Iraqi conflict and the war on terror. "These are our century's forgotten

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wars,” Derryck said.

One neglected fight has been the war on poverty. “In 2005 ... 2.75 billion people live on less than two dollars per day,” Derryck said. Poverty continues to have a powerful effect on women, who earn an average of just under 25% less than their male counterparts. “Women are poor,” Derryck said.

Extreme poverty can contribute to civil war, Derryck said. This is the case in the Darfur region of Sudan, where 10,000 people are killed or displaced daily as a result of civil conflict. “Today in western Sudan, the world is witnessing a genocide,” she said. Women have experienced some of the conflict’s most damaging consequences, including murder, rape, and forced impregnation by Janjaweed insurgents. “It’s the women who suffer the most,”

Derryck said. She encouraged the audience to support efforts that could help end the war. “It’s our right to write our president. It’s our right to write to our senators,” she reminded listeners.

Derryck also pointed to the war on HIV/AIDS as one of the preeminent battles of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. “There are now more than 42 million people worldwide living with HIV,” she said. The disease has already reached epidemic proportions in Africa, where it is estimated that 90 million people will be affected by 2020. “The world needs to literally double its response,” she said.

It is estimated that 55% of new infections will be in women. “In Africa, we’re now talking about the feminization of AIDS,” Derryck said. Americans need to work in Africa to reduce the stigma that surrounds the disease, improve the infrastructure, and provide funds for treatment and drug therapies, Derryck

said. “We Americans have tamed the virus,” she said.

Derryck acknowledged President George W. Bush’s \$15 billion initiative to fight HIV/AIDS, of which \$2.6 billion has been disbursed so far. However, she said that his system, which stresses abstinence and monogamy but not condom use, is flawed. “In Africa, this is not looking at the reality of the situation,” she said. “It just doesn’t make sense.”

Derryck reminded the audience of its power to fight these wars. She encouraged listeners to get involved through internships, letter writing campaigns, and groups that seek common understanding.

“It’s not enough to be knowledgeable,” she said. “You’ve also got to make your voice known.”

~Abby Tripp



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## **WMST Faculty and WIC Revive Tradition of Fellowship**

On February 25, 2005, the Women’s Studies faculty and members of WIC (The Women’s Issues Coalition) revived an Alfred tradition of the late 1990s that had almost been forgotten—the Women’s Studies potluck supper. Faculty members and students decided to revive the tradition of enjoying fellowship and a rich variety of home-cooked foods at the home of a faculty member. Despite the cold weather, folks drove from Alfred to Canisteo where Dr. Fiona Tolhurst and her husband Christoph Neuendorf own a Victorian home with a living room large enough to accommodate a sizeable crowd. WMST faculty members Sylvia Bryant, Carol Burdick (CB), Melissa Ryan, and Fiona Tolhurst joined over a dozen students for an evening of food and fellowship.

*Alphadelphian* staffers Adrienne Eglinger, Meg Gray, Sara Schnick, Abby Tripp, and Jen Unislawski were all in attendance. Other students in attendance included Kathy Arseno, Courtney Ashraf, Paula Epps, and Megan Ramsey. Everyone was able to enjoy CB’s baked beans, Meg Gray’s carrot cake (which became Dr.

Tolhurst’s birthday cake), and several other delicious dishes. Additional guests included Sylvia Bryant’s sons Parker and Duncan, who enjoyed tasting the many foods available, and Dr. Tolhurst’s Australian Shepherd Jazz who celebrated his eleventh birthday with his student and faculty friends—and cleaned up any food that happened to find its way to the floor.

Ryan Love, the only male student to attend the event, did report that he had a moment of discomfort that evening, noting, “It was okay except when you all talked about shaving your legs.” However, Love, like the other participants, considered this event such a success that WIC and WMST decided to continue this recently revived tradition.

On April 29, CB hosted a potluck supper celebrating the achievements of the WMST Minors at her home in Alfred Station. Clearly, this tradition has been revived successfully.

~Dr. Fiona Tolhurst

# AU Women's Leadership Center becomes a reality

When AU students and faculty return to campus in Fall 2005, they will be greeted by an up-and-running Women's Leadership Center.

Planning for the WLC began in Spring 2004 when it was announced that a \$250,000 gift had been awarded to the University by an anonymous alumna. After over a year of work that culminated in the hiring of Director Amy Jacobson, the Center will at last become a reality.

## Funding

The donation for the Center was made by an anonymous AU alumna, said Executive Director of Capital Campaigns Sylvia Bryant. She called the gift a product of "having the right conversations at the right time."

"Setting up a Women's Leadership Center is something that Alfred University has wanted for a long time," she said.

The donation is intended to cover the cost of setup and help sustain the Center for three years. Bryant called the funding a "challenge gift"; the goal is to get other donors to respond to it and give to the same cause. "My office will continue to seek funds to support [the Center]," Bryant said. "I know that the Center is a priority for the University, and institutional priorities become fundraising priorities."

## The Center

The Women's Leadership Center is located

in The Commons at Ford Street Apartments. While the facilities have their imperfections, Acting Vice President of Student Affairs Kathy Woughter explained that the goal was to focus funding on programming instead of aesthetics. Nevertheless, significant energy was dedicated to making the space comfortable and inviting.

Early in the project, Woughter enlisted the assistance of grad intern Melissa Carter.

Carter purchased comfortable furniture and new curtains for the facility.

The Office of Admissions, Central Student Affairs, and the Department of Modern Languages all donated used furniture for the WLCs office and meeting spaces.

A set of carpet tiles on the floor and a fresh coat of paint on the wall completed the transformation of the Commons into a warm and inviting space for members of the AU community.

## The Advisory Board

The Women's Leadership Center Advisory Board is comprised of alumnae, faculty, and staff. Bryant and Woughter both sit on the Board, as does Director of Women's Studies

Laura Greyson. According to Bryant, the Board brings together women of a variety of ages and perspectives; she and Woughter agreed that it was wonderful to work with such a diverse and talented group of women.

At meetings on December 1 and February 1, the Board formed three committees: one in

charge of hiring the director, one in charge of looking at and planning programming, and one that will put the Board in touch with the University community.

Once the Center is up and running, the Board will meet every six months. Bryant expressed a hope that several of these meetings would take place on the AU campus.

## Plans

The Center will "offer programs to develop women's leadership skills," according to Bryant. To this end, the Advisory Board is looking to implement mentoring, networking, and instructional programming components. An emphasis will be placed on providing resources for emerging leaders.

The Center will include a reading area and at least one computer where students can access information and resources, said Woughter. Eventually, the ideal would be to implement a scholarship program for female students with leadership potential, said Bryant. Such a program would allow AU to recruit potential leaders and provide extensive support once they are on campus.

Woughter stressed that the WLC, unlike many other leadership centers, will be a resource for all female students: artists, humanists, social scientists, engineers, and scientists.

~Abby Tripp

# Swingin' Sandra

In 1981, Ronald Reagan kept his campaign promise to nominate a woman to the Supreme Court. This woman was none other than Sandra Day O'Connor, a 51-year-old conservative who had found her way into the law after a legal battle involving her family's ranch.

Despite her completion of law school in only two years and other qualifications, she had been unable to find employment in a private law firm and eventually opened her own practice. Just prior to her nomination, the Supreme Court had agreed to amend the former title of Mr. Justice to Justice. The Senate then backed her unanimously. She had a conservative background, but she was a woman, which made it difficult for liberal senators to argue against her appointment.

As a justice, O'Connor's decisions have never been easy to anticipate. Although she tends to side with the conservative faction, this is not always the case. She avoids pronouncements she finds to be too sweeping and, unlike her conservative colleagues, tends to approach each case individually. In addition, she has publicly spoken against the current handling of the death penalty and has

been a strong advocate of Affirmative Action. Some feminist organizations were initially upset by her tendency to support the scaling back of *Roe v. Wade*, but she has proven herself to be a staunch supporter of the ruling.

Her position as the "swing vote" has made some claim that she is the most powerful justice. The split of justices is indeed five conservatives to four liberals and, since in many cases it is clear how the other eight justices will vote, her vote often determines the Supreme Court's ruling.

Although politicians on both sides of the aisle find her lack of predictability frustrating, Justice O'Connor has won the respect of the political community over the years. Following a ruling in support of Affirmative Action, she described her method of ruling: "It's not enough to simply read or even memorize parts of the Constitution. Rather, we should try to understand the ideas that gave it life."

~Sara Schnick

# Op-ed: Abstinence-Only Sex-Ed Ignores the Facts

As President Bush continues to seek funds for sexual education that teaches "abstinence-only until marriage," I can't help but wonder why more people are not outraged by this.

Abstinence-only programs teach young adults just that, to abstain from sex until marriage. While it is disturbing that a faith-based initiative might end up as public policy, it is more disturbing that morality might replace science in public schools. Biology is based on scientific fact, and while it is true that abstaining from sex is the only way to prevent pregnancy and STDs, it is not the only truth about sexual activity and not the way to educate the youth of our nation. We not only live in an oversexed culture, but we also live in an era in which HIV/AIDS is prevalent.

The reality of STDs among young adults is startling. Half of all the nation's new STD cases occur among 15-24 year olds, and young people under the age of 25 report half of all new HIV/AIDS cases. While teen pregnancy rates are on the decline, they are not low given this nation's economic and educational resources.

This agenda puts an especially heavy burden on young women, as they are more vulnerable to STDs through vaginal intercourse and must cope with the consequences of an unplanned pregnancy. To deny young women the truth about sex erodes the status it took

our foremothers decades to achieve. They are the ones who fought for safe and legal contraceptives, safe and legal abortions, sexual education for the nation's public schools, and the ability to make choices about reproduction and sexual activity.

As Planned Parenthood celebrates its 40th anniversary, the Bush administration celebrates \$170 million for its abstinence-only sex-ed programs. Let's step up and fight for public policy based on fact, not faith.

Columbia and Yale University researchers have found that even young people who have made virginity pledges need the facts because they still engage in risky sexual behavior, including oral and anal sex. In addition, "pledgers" have comparable STD infection rates to "non-pledgers" and yet are less likely to be aware of their STD status.

If you are outraged by this Administration's agenda, continue to fight as our foremothers did. Let's fight for the truth, for choice, and for the sexual education necessary to liberate our daughters.

~Meg Gray

(Sources: *Journal of Adolescent Health*, *ABC News*, *Advocates for Youth*)

## Fear of the "F" Word

Oh no, not the "F" word again.

In such a progressive campus culture, one might assume that a majority of people at Alfred University would be able to define feminism. Sadly, however, a lot of people on this campus are still afraid of this word, and they avoid eye contact when answering a question about whether or not they consider themselves to be feminists. Since the very first issue of *The Alphasdelphian* addressed this topic, this year's staff decided that it would be interesting to see whether campus opinion has changed since 1997.

The 1997 issue cited many individuals' views about feminism, but most of the people featured in the article were faculty and administrators. The majority of the quoted individuals, such as former President Edward Coll, did in fact claim to be feminists. Former

Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Jerry Brody, for example, remarked, "If you are using the traditional definition of feminism, that women should have equal rights and opportunities, then I certainly consider myself a feminist."

*The Alphasdelphian's* 2005 survey asked people for their views of feminism. Many students on campus were reluctant to answer questions about feminism, and, if they even remotely considered themselves feminists, were quick to offer a disclaimer. In addition, most people preferred to remain anonymous.

"I always think of angry women. Man-haters I guess," replied a student who said she does not consider herself a feminist. Another female student commented, "I think feminism is a movement that supports equality between the sexes," but when asked if males can be

feminists, she quickly backed off and said, "I guess, but it's probably rare."

The majority of students interviewed this year subscribed to the notion of equal rights, but those same people were reluctant to associate themselves with the word feminism. Based on the opinions they expressed, many students have opinions similar to that of one grad student who said that she is a feminist by her own definition but "definitely not under the stereotypical bra-burning definition."

It's striking that in 1997, male administrators were not only comfortable with the word feminism, but also eager to label themselves feminists. In contrast, in 2005, many female students are actively trying to redefine the "F" word to make it a more comfortable label to use. What is everyone so afraid of?

~Jen Unislawski

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Alfred. Sara Schnick took on national issues related to women in her pieces about the possible overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Abby Tripp covered both the soon-to-be-founded Women's Leadership Center and the 2005 Riley Lecture. Jen Unislawski investigated student attitudes towards the term feminism as well as served the newsletter's other layout editor.

With the assistance of Sue Goetschius

(Director of Communications) and Pam Torok (Website Technician), the *Alphasdelphian* staff also redesigned and updated the WMST web presence at the University. While revising the former page's varied formatting to conform to the new University style guidelines, staff members updated the information available and reorganized it to highlight key facts about our Program and its history. For example, by making the landing page for Women's Studies the historical

overview of women at Alfred, the staff made more visible our University's long-time support of women's academic and personal achievements.

Dr. Tolhurst and the 2005 staff hope that WMST 470 will be offered every spring semester and that students will continue to take advantage of this rare educational opportunity.

~Dr. Fiona Tolhurst

# Business and Women's Studies: Is There Interest at AU?

Women are making great strides in the business world, but they might encounter obstacles as they advance in their careers. Most Women's Studies texts include the topics of unequal pay, sexual harassment, and balancing family and work; however, the AU College of Business does not offer a Women's Studies course despite its enrolling many female students in its programs. Is there a need for a WMST course for business students?

To answer this question, I conducted a survey to see whether or not CoB students would be interested in such a course. Thirty-four students, divided equally between sexes, took part in the survey. Among the men there were six seniors, eight juniors, and three sophomores. There were three seniors, ten juniors, and four sophomore women who participated in the survey. Ten students were not business majors.

Only three male students and seven female students were familiar with the AU WMST program. Three females reported being WMST minors and knew other College of Business WMST minors. One male had taken a WMST course, and four female students reported having taken a WMST course. When asked why the others had not taken a WMST course, the males said they had "no interest," they "didn't have time," and had "never heard of it." The females' responses included that they "haven't had the chance," it was "not required," and it "hasn't fit in [my] schedule." Four of the males and nine of the females reported interest in taking a WMST course.

The survey also included questions about the amount of course material in business classes focusing on women's issues in the business world. The male and female responses were generally the same. One male who will be graduating this spring said that gender issues were "mostly in marketing and management courses," while another replied he saw them "very little." A sophomore claimed that no course material concerned women's issues. As for the females, a senior replied, "One course: Women and Men in Management." The juniors and sophomores perceived the CoB as providing "little" to "some" coverage of women's issues.

The final question on the survey asked

whether or not the participant would be interested in taking a WMST course that was designed for the CoB, and if so, should it be mandatory or an elective, and why. The results are as follows: Of the seventeen males, four supported a WMST elective and one said it should be mandatory since, "It is important to learn about diversity in the business world." Nine males did not support such a course, saying, "I've had my share of Women's Studies issues" and there is "not enough time." Twelve of the thirteen females supported it, but only one said it should be mandatory. The one female who did not support it did so because she was "already required to take too many classes."

Some participants did not answer all of the questions on the survey. The question they most often left blank was why they have not taken a women's studies course. Either students did not have a reason, or they did not wish to disclose why. After speaking to a junior female marketing major, some explanations for this data emerged. She said that many business students feel that the number of courses that they are required to take is large, and many must be taken in a specific order or during a specific year. Thus the survey results may reflect the perceived inflexibility of courses of study in the CoB.

Every participant agreed that it is important to study diversity. Diversity includes issues of class, race, and gender. If people believe diversity is important, then why is the issue of women, specifically, seen as less important than other diversity issues? Does it require separate consideration?

There seems to be a general interest in having a business course cross-listed as a WMST course. One class that is offered every other spring, Women and Men in Management, is as close as it gets. Dr. Frances Viggiani, associate professor of management, has offered the course five times in the past ten years. There are always some men enrolled in the course, and last spring's class consisted of sixteen students, the largest turnout yet. Student interest in it is increasing.

Nevertheless, when the participants in the AU survey were asked what first comes to mind when they see the words Women's Studies, stereotypical

perceptions emerged. The males responded, "feminazis," "nothing," "it should not be an issue- studying it and implanting biased ideas in people's heads will only cause more problems," "feminism," and "manly lesbians, that need to bitch about something." Some females responded by saying, "feminist issues," "negative stereotypes of feminists," and "women in history." Not all responses were negative, but clearly some students perceive Women's Studies differently than the WMST faculty and students do.

Feminism has become the "F-word," so many women are choosing not to define themselves as feminists. They believe in equality and relate to women's issues and struggles but reject the label of "feminist."

Dr. Viggiani discussed generational differences in attitudes towards feminism. "Women now focus more on being feminine but not feminist." Viggiani says she sees "sexism everywhere, but some women don't want to talk about it." Our generation might believe that the battle has been fought and that "we've come a long way baby," yet the wage gap and gender-based discrimination continue. Maybe women are choosing their battles. As Dr. Viggiani states, "women find a way to make a difference without raising the question of whether they are feminists."

The most recent book used in Viggiani's course, *Women and Men in Management* by Gary Powell and Laura Graves (2003), says that "support for gender stereotypes has not diminished over time despite considerable changes in women's and men's roles in the workplace."

"Just eight CEO-ships, 13.6% of board seats, and 15.7% of top executive jobs in the Fortune 500 are held by women" (Kitchen). After viewing these facts, one can see clear evidence of gender-based discrimination.

By conducting the survey, I hope to have encouraged business students to research the Women's Studies minor or to consider taking a Women's Studies course.

~Beth Glotz

(Source: Kitchen, Patricia. "Power of the Purse?" *Newsday* 26 Sep. 2004)

# Women's History Month Educates Community

During the month of March, AU celebrated Women's History Month. It did so with a Women's Studies Roundtable, Take Back the Night, and Vivian Lowery Derryck's Riley Lecture on April 4.

Laura Greyson, Director of Women's Studies and Professor of Political Science, believes that Women's History Month is important because people know so little about it. "Women's History Month is important because even with as much progress we have had in the past generation, people know how so little about the history of women," said Greyson.

In 1911, March 8 was observed as International Women's Day in recognition of women's struggles to receive better working conditions and pay. In 1977, the Sonoma County, CA, school system declared March as Women's History

Month in order to teach young people about women's history and contributions to American society. In March 1978, women were celebrated during Women's History Week. In 1987, a congressional joint resolution declared March as Women's History Month.

Vicki Eaklor, Professor of History, has not yet decided how she will celebrate Women's History Month because she incorporates women into her teaching all year. "I so completely incorporate women into all that I teach that I don't 'reserve' March for mentioning women but will certainly acknowledge the month," said Eaklor.

Women's History Month is a powerful opportunity to teach young people about heroines of the past—workers, mothers, artists, and activists. This event makes

feminist values visible.

Melissa Ryan, Assistant Professor of English, is a strong believer in promoting women and seeing them progress towards making their mark in the world. "I believe that knowing something about and celebrating women's history is crucial to moving forward—to not reinventing the wheel, to not repeating mistakes—and I think that gives young women a better sense of who they are as women," said Ryan. "Celebrating women's history is also vital for keeping in view a more inclusive definition of 'history'...one that recognizes the significance of human activity beyond, beneath, and around U.S. presidents and military actions."

~Crystal Craft

## How to Complete a Women's Studies Minor

The interdisciplinary Women's Studies Minor examines scholarship and research relating to women as well as women's contributions to societies around the world. The objectives of the minor are to provide a theoretical and practical structure within which to study issues of concern for women; to promote an understanding of historical and biosocial contexts that shape

the awareness of womanhood; and to encourage independent reading about and study of women's issues.

The course of study for the Women's Studies Minor supports and complements study in a variety of majors offered at AU. Students are invited to complete a minor in Women's Studies or to select courses of particular interest to them. All

program courses can be used as electives and many count toward majors in traditional disciplines. Participating faculty are drawn from across the University

The Women's Studies Minor requires that students take a core course, Women in Society, and complete an independent study project in their senior year, which serves as a capstone experience. The additional hours

necessary to complete the minor include 12 elective credits in courses taught in the following disciplines: Creative Writing, Communication Studies, English, Fine Arts, History, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Women's Studies.

## 2004-2005 Women's Studies Roundtables

Friday, September 3, 2004

**Virginia Rasmussen**

"Election '04: What's in It for Women?"

Friday, October 1, 2004

**Carol Burdick**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of English Emerita

"Aging Naturally: Peacocks, Peepers, and Possibilities"

Friday, November 5, 2004

**Martha Brim and Gail Doherty**

"Bodies, Minds, and Muumuus: A Dialogue About Women, Dance, and Mature Bodies"

Friday, December 3, 2004

**Fenna Mandolong**

"Alternatives to Violence"

Friday, January 28, 2005

**Shades**

"Professional Women of Color at Alfred University"

Friday, February 25

**Allen Grove**, Associate Professor of English

"The Gentlewomen of Evil: Gender and the First Horror Novels"

Friday, March 18

**Melissa Ryan**, Assistant Professor of English

"The 'Woman Question' and the 'Indian Problem': Matilda Joslyn Gage and the Iroquois"

Friday, April 29

**Presentations by graduating Women's Studies minors**

# Spotlight on Women's Studies Alumnae

The *Alphadelphian* staff decided that it would be interesting to see what some Women's Studies minors have been doing since graduation. We were interested in reporting some success stories and seeing whether these alumnae had any advice for current WMST minors. After asking WMST faculty and staff for help in contacting alumnae who were WMST minors, many names began to surface.

The first alumna whom I contacted was **Kelly Smith**. Kelly graduated from AU in 1997. Following graduation, she worked at a small healthcare company in Boston for a year and then at Accenture for two years. For the past five years she has been employed by Merrill Lynch. All of Smith's occupations have been in the field of human resources. Her current job involves managing the recruiting department for Merrill Lynch's Investment Banking Analyst Program for the US offices and its University Relations Group.

When asked what advice she would give to current WMST minors, Smith responded by suggesting that they "begin networking as early in their college careers as possible. The job market is a much different one than when I graduated." She also emphasized the importance of internships. Furthermore, she advises, "do not take a significant amount of time off after graduation if you have not yet found a job." She stated that candidates appear unfocused if they have employment gaps on their resumes.

Smith says that her WMST classes "were the first situations in which I was able to gain my own voice. I was incredibly passionate about the topics in a way that I never felt before. It was really when I began to

come into who I am as a woman and how I view myself. All of that has affected the decisions I have made in my career and personal life since." She singled out Dr. Porter as a source of encouragement and guidance. Smith cited *The Sociology of Sex and Gender* as her favorite WMST class. Dr. Porter's reading list for the course included the book *Egalia's Daughters*, a text Smith said "forever changed my view of the discrimination of women and the way that norms and 'traditions' come to be. She continued by saying "I often think about all of those classes and crave those discussions and the tremendous spirit and perspective I gained from my peers and professors." Clearly, the AU WMST Program has had a positive impact on Kelly's life.

Here are a few more noteworthy updates:

**Megan Allen**, '98, the original creator of *The Alphadelphian*, is currently a communications specialist with the Capital Region BOCES, working for the Niskayuna Central School District. She got married three years ago. She explained that her WMST courses at AU "helped me see all that we've gained and how far we still have to go to have gender equality in our society." She advises students to look everywhere for jobs and "not be afraid to move on and try something new."

**Lindsay Olson** is an independent auditor for a regional accounting firm based in Rochester, NY. She believes that her WMST minor "helped me keep my eyes open, and I know I look at things differently than other women do at my level in business." She completed a thesis about

women in the business world with Dr. Porter and enjoyed taking Women in Society with Professor Morehouse.

**Erin McKenna Nowak**, '95, is a graphic designer, artist, and mother as of January of this year. She has been a children's book designer in NYC and has taught graphic design courses in Chicago. She now owns *Bride Design*, a business that creates high-end, handmade wedding and event invitations and stationery. "My studies informed me of our society's need for future generations of confident, competent, and fearless women. I hope to instill those qualities in my child each day, while remaining true to myself as a business owner, a wife, and most of all ... as a woman."

**Sara Guariglia**, '03, an MFA candidate in creative writing at Emerson College, says that her AU WMST experience has "given me a framework to work from in my writing, and it's given me a stronger conviction in my feminist beliefs." She finds herself using information acquired in Dr. Walker's Psychology of Women course every day.

**Carolyn Corrado**, '00 is pursuing her Ph.D. in Sociology at SUNY Albany and has an assistantship there. "Through the course work, roundtables, and opportunities that I had as a WMST minor at AU, I have come to know myself and what I believe in and parlay that into my career." She will be teaching her first course this summer, titled *The Sociology of Race, Gender, and Class*. "All my WMST courses and professors stayed true to the AU Women's Studies mission: To 'be radical,

radical to the core.'"

**Michaela Cavallaro**, '94, the youngest and first female editor of *Mainebiz* – a statewide business newspaper based in Portland, ME – has been able to cover some important women's issues "such as gender pay equity and the working poor - despite having a largely male audience for the paper." Cavallaro has also been named the Maine 2005 Small Business Journalist of the Year and New England Regional Small Business Journalist of the Year. She says "the knowledge I gained in WMST classes... formed a solid foundation for my career and life."

**Karla Moskowitz**, '63, never expected to become a lawyer and eventual judge when she graduated from AU. Today, however, she is a New York State Supreme Court Justice and a strong supporter of Alfred's WMST program.

When asked why she is so passionate about sustaining the program, she responded by saying "I believe that all of us – women and men -- have a responsibility to assist those who follow us. Women, in particular, need help in combating stereotyping that permeates our upbringing, education, and work lives." Judge Moskowitz makes a significant difference in people's lives through her decisions, courtroom presence, and court and community activities.

She hopes AU students will be open to new ideas and activities when searching for a job because it will help them discover talents worth sharing with the world.

~Beth Glotz

# Can Bush Get Roe v. Wade Overturned?

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court ruled that it was a violation of a woman's constitutional right to privacy to refuse her the choice of abortion by law. The choice was to be made by the woman in consultation with her doctor, with some exceptions in later stages of pregnancy. This seems like the end of the story. The court has ruled. Case closed. Right? Well, maybe not.

This year, on the 32nd anniversary of the landmark ruling, President Bush made a statement to pro-life activists marching in Washington D.C. He stated that there was reason to hope that the Roe v. Wade decision might be reversed some time during his term as president. Does Bush have any real evidence to support this claim, or was he just playing to the crowd?

It is possible for the Supreme Court to overturn a previous ruling. If the justices were to decide to hear a case involving abortion and then conclude that it is, in fact, constitutional for states to ban abortion in order to protect the rights of the fetus, then the former ruling would become null and void.

The current nine justices have either made statements about or been involved with court decisions involving the abortion issue. Although justices' views can change, or perhaps their views are not what the media thinks them to be, pundits are actively speculating about each justice's position on the Roe v. Wade decision. Their reputed positions are as follows:

Name	Age	Uphold	Overturn
Stephen Breyer	66	X	
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	72	X	
Anthony Kennedy*	68	X	
Sandra Day O'Connor	75	X	
William Rehnquist**	80		X
Antonin Scalia	69		X
David Souter	65	X	
John Paul Stevens	85	X	
Clarence Thomas	56		X

\* Some sources claim that Justice Kennedy would vote to overturn Roe v. Wade making the vote 5-4, though most argue that he would be more likely to uphold the 1973 ruling.

\*\*Chief Justice

As it stands, it is unlikely that the current Supreme Court would overturn the Roe v. Wade decision. Justices to the Supreme Court are appointed for life and cannot be forced to retire. They can be impeached, in the same way that the president can be, but this is an unlikely outcome. Judging by the ages of the current justices, it is not inconceivable that President Bush will be in the position to appoint new ones during his second term. If, for some reason, two of the six justices who would vote to uphold Roe v. Wade were to die or retire, it is possible that two new justices could be appointed who would vote to overturn Roe v. Wade and the decision would be successfully overturned. The process of overturning the 1973 decision would not be immediate; another case would have to come up through the lesser courts and be accepted for review.

Currently, new justices are appointed by the President, then screened and questioned by the Senate, which has the task of either approving or rejecting potential justices. Confirmation or denial of a new justice is decided by a simple majority. On the other hand, if at least 41 Senators decide they do not like a candidate but feel that the candidate might be able to win a simple majority, they can create a filibuster, meaning they will just keep talking about the candidate and not let it go to a vote until the rest of the Senate gives up.

There is a possible solution to this frustrating aspect of the legislative process being discussed as a last resort in the Senate. This solution is being called the "Nuclear Option." If this passes, the Senators will be forbidden to form a filibuster against a candidate for Supreme Court Justice. This change in procedure, if it passes, will make it far easier for Bush to have more obviously conservative justices approved by the Senate. To contact your senator and voice your opinion on this issue, check out this website: <http://www.pfaw.org/pfaw/general/default.aspx?oid=17697>

So will Roe v. Wade survive Bush's presidency? It probably will. It is likely that President Bush will have the opportunity to replace some Justices who are currently firmly upholding the Roe v. Wade decision, but then the process of overturning the previous ruling would take time. It is possible that he will be able to lay the groundwork for overturning abortion rights, but it is unlikely that President Bush will accomplish this during his second term in office.

~Sara Schnick

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## 2004: Professor and Student Win Abigail Allen Awards

Dr. Vicki Eaklor, Professor of History, Chair of the Division of Human Studies, and a campus activist for the rights of women and homosexuals, was the 2004 recipient of the Abigail Allen Award for Alfred University faculty or staff.

The Abigail Allen Awards are presented annually to a faculty or staff member, a senior student, and an alumna or alumnus. The faculty/staff award and the student award are announced at Honors Convocation and the alumna/us is recognized during Reunion.

"Musician, historian, scholar-teacher, lesbian activist, advisor, friend, and colleague" was how Eaklor was described by Pamela Lakin, Research Services Librarian and 2003 Abigail Allen Award winner, who presented her award.

Eaklor, who has been a member of the

AU faculty for 20 years, was the third Director of the Women's Studies Program and the first advisor to the Women's Issues Coalition. She has also been an advisor, both formally and informally, to gay and lesbian students. Through her efforts, AU became a leader in offering benefits to same-sex partners.

In addition to teaching History and Women's Studies courses, Eaklor also teaches percussion for the Division of Performing Arts. She won an Excellence in Teaching Award from the University in 1998, and that same year was honored by Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society, as the recipient of its Outstanding Faculty Leader Award.

The student recipient was Fenna Mandolang, a senior who majored in Fine Arts in the College of Liberal Arts and

Sciences with a minor in Women's Studies. She is also a member of AU's newly established Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

Mandolang, a graduate of The George School in Philadelphia, is the daughter of Dr. Nadine Hoover of Alfred and Felix Mandolang of Orlando, FL. She also becomes the first "multi-generational" recipient of the award; her grandmother, Dr. Sharon Hoover, Professor Emerita of English, received the faculty award in 2001.

The award is particularly noteworthy for the AU community because the University, founded in 1863, 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.

~4/9/04- AU Office of Communications

## 2004 Riley Lecture

The definition of "family" changed greatly in 18th-century England, and women's rights declined as a result, according to Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professor of Literature Dr. Ruth Perry.

Perry presented her speech, titled "Novel Relations: The Transformation of Kinship in Eighteenth-Century England," as the ninth annual Riley Lecture in Women's Studies.

Perry was introduced by Associate Professor of English Allen Grove, who was Perry's research assistant during his undergraduate career, as a woman whose "love of literature and learning, and devotion to women's studies, is contagious."

Perry's lecture addressed the makeup of the nuclear family as a product of the development of industry and capitalism. "The family implied in the current normalizing term 'family values'—a heterosexual married couple and their immature children—was invented in the eighteenth century," Perry said in an introduction to her lecture. "The economic drive to accumulate capital in families and to channel it in the male line weakened other forms of kin relations."

Perry further elaborated in her lecture on the impact this had on women's rights in late 18th-century England. Women no longer inherited equal shares from their parents, and upon marriage ceased to be a part of their birth family. This was in stark contrast to the earlier form of inheritance which gave women an equal share of family wealth: "Maternal lineage had always been important in England. Daughters could inherit land as well as goods or money," Perry said. "But by the eighteenth century, these patterns were changing."

The reason for this change, Perry said, was the movement towards a capitalistic society, in which accumulation of wealth was the goal, as opposed to division of wealth. As a result, women's ties to their birth family decreased and their tie to their

chosen family—husband and children—increased.

As the first industrialized society, England experienced this shift the earliest and most dramatically. Perry went on to state that the proof of this movement and its effects on women cannot be seen in birth and death records, but instead are noted in the literature of the time: "I was led to this formulation by the novels of the period, by the obsessive concern they showed with defining family membership," Perry said. "From the evidence of these novels I believe that this shift ... had very different consequences for women than for men."

Perry noted that art often reflects the concerns of a society, as opposed to its reality. For examples, the novels of the 18th century stressed bonds between women and their birth families. A daughter was often lost and then found again by her father through a joyful reunion. This attachment between daughter and father represented a fantasy that was becoming less and less commonplace in 18th-century England: "The recurrent fantasy was a sign of nostalgic yearning for paternal protection," Perry said.

A similar phenomenon took place with the relationships between sisters and brothers, Perry added. While brothers and sisters were increasingly at odds over the inheritable wealth of their family, brothers became increasingly heroic in the fiction of the era: "The idealized brother in literature is another image that appealed to a society in which brotherly responsibility was eroding," Perry said.

"This time period was the kickoff of a new set of strategies that had to do with the accumulation of wealth over distribution," Perry said. "As a result, women became hopelessly mired in their conjugal families."

~Kerry White, for the Fiat Lux, March 30, 2004 (Edited for The Alhadelphian by Abby Tripp)

# WMST Faculty Factoids

**Cecilia Beach** is the former Director of Women's Studies. This semester she is on sabbatical in Europe for five weeks. She spent two weeks in Amsterdam working at the International Institute of Social History, one week in Geneva working at the Bibliotheque Pulique et Universitaire and two weeks working at the Bibliotheque Nationale de France and the Bibliotheque Marguerite Durand (a feminist library). Beach is conducting research on André Léo. Léo is a woman novelist and journalist who participated in the Paris Commune and was involved in the feminist and socialist movements in late nineteenth century France. In the future Beach will develop her Léo research into a book. But this summer Beach's book, *Staging Politics and Gender: French Women's Drama, 1880-1923*, will be published by Palgrave-Macmillan. This book examines political and feminist plays by French women playwrights and activists. Beach studies the dramatic works within the context of a variety of theatrical movements (anarchist theater, social protest theater, theater of the people and the theater of ideas) as well as in relation to the social, political, and feminist movements with which their authors were associated. The book explores a wide range of themes including revolution, reproductive rights, divorce, and the education of women and workers.

**Sylvia Bryant**, Executive Director of Capital Campaigns, is back in the classroom this semester for the first time in seven years. She is currently teaching the introductory Women's Studies class, *Women in Society*. Dr. Bryant moved into her current position in University Relations after teaching as an adjunct professor for five years. She has several ongoing projects at the moment and is gearing up to launch a three-year capital campaign that will focus on fund-raising for programs, facilities, and faculty development within the university. Dr. Bryant has also been very involved in the development of the Women's Leadership Center and cites it as one of her favorite projects. Although juggling her projects in University Relations and teaching has been difficult at times, Dr. Bryant says that it is "great to be back in the classroom [...] it's

all the things I like to do coming together at one time." Dr. Bryant also stays busy with her two young boys, Parker, "7 years old going on 12" and 4-year-old Duncan. She recently took them to see *The Lion King* and is preparing Duncan for kindergarten next fall.

**Robyn Goodman**, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, remains dedicated to educating students, fellow journalists, and academic professionals about the need to better cover women and minorities. She continues to teach a class on this topic called *Women, Minorities, and the Media*. In March, she delivered a lecture on how to improve college newspapers' diversity coverage at the College Media Advisors' annual spring conference in New York City. In April, she held a SAFE Zone training session for AU faculty and staff to update them on GLBT issues. Goodman is currently head of the International Communication Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, the nation's premier journalism education organization.

**Laura Greyson**, Professor of Political Science and Director of Women's Studies, is currently working on articles related to civic and global education. Greyson's work emphasizes the meaning of being a good citizen in a democracy. In the past, males dominated the field of Political Science. Greyson has discovered that women are getting more involved in this field. Greyson's latest research is about Charlotte Perkins Gilman, sociologist and author of the short story *The Yellow Wallpaper*. Greyson's main teaching interest is in civic education, and her classes focus on this topic. As a result of completing a dissertation on the role of the family, Greyson developed both a personal and professional interest in civic associations. She is also enthusiastic about the creation of the new Women's Leadership Center this summer. As the Director of Women's Studies, she hopes that more and more women will step up to become active leaders.

**Larry Greil** is not only a Professor of

Sociology and the Chair of the Division of Social Sciences, he is a father of two who loves to travel. In the past few years, he has been to India, South Africa, and Brazil. Greil teaches a variety of courses: *Social Theory, Race and Ethnicity*, several graduate courses, Honors Seminars, and many other courses. Presently Greil is engaged in a nationwide study of infertile women, funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. His study will examine a nationwide random sample of U.S. women and their partners in order to determine who seeks help for infertility and why, and it will investigate the psychosocial consequences of infertility and voluntary childlessness. He will then present a paper with Julia McQuillan of the University of Nebraska at this year's meeting of the American Sociological Association about how women make decisions about motherhood. Greil and McQuillan have also published an article on infertility help-seeking published in the *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology* and will soon publish an article on a similar theme in *Social Science and Medicine*. He is also the Executive Officer for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. His research on the sociology of religion focuses on conversion and on quasireligion, and he is currently working with Lynn Davidman of Brown University on a book about women and men who leave Orthodox Judaism.

**Allen Grove**, Associate Professor of English, recently presented his Women's Studies Roundtable entitled, "The Gentlewomen of Evil: Gender and the First Horror Novels." Dr. Grove is proud to be able to state that he was one of only four male students at the traditionally all women's college, Wellesley. He was also one of the few men who were granted passes for unaccompanied access to the staircases in the school buildings. When asked where his interest in feminist issues comes from, he replied, "Well, I'm not sure, but it may have something to do with that failed sex change operation fifteen years ago..."

Recently retired AU professor **Sharon Hoover** presented the Bergren Forum

for March. She outlined the history and development of pacifism in Greece and the Middle East from before the Christian Era through today. Hoover is also writing an article to be published in Friends Journal concerning Quaker responses to our national policies following 9/11. Currently, she is hosting five Indonesian teachers and administrators who are here to study “US elementary teaching and provisions for special needs.”

**Ariana Huberman**, Assistant Professor of Spanish is currently working on two major projects. She will present a paper entitled “Defining Culture in a Foreign Language: Women in Nineteenth-Century Latin American Travel Narratives” at the Thirteenth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in Claremont, CA on June 2-5, 2005. She is also working on an article about a contemporary Mexican author, Margo Glantz, that will be published in the journal *Hispania*: “Desde las roturas: memoria, judeidad y extranjería en la obra de Tamara Kamenszain.”

**Susan Mayberry**, Professor of English, says she is taking on midlife with a manuscript and a pair of skis. “I took up skiing at 48,” she said, calling herself “damn good.” “It’s the closest thing I’m ever gonna get to flying.” She has parlayed her newfound love of the winter sport into travel opportunities, taking her family to Colorado to ski Vail, Breck, Keystone, and Loveland. When Mayberry is not hitting the slopes, she is hitting the books as she prepares a manuscript about the novels of Toni Morrison. Her research explores the role of men in Morrison’s novels. When she set to work on the text, her goal was “to learn more about boys.” As she worked, however, she said that she learned much about both genders. “[I think there is] a kind of healthy androgyny in all of us,” she said. “I think it’s healthy to have the masculine and the feminine.”

**Linda Mitchell** is wrapping up the spring semester in preparation for her yearlong sabbatical. She is currently working on three books and will be busy doing research in Britain during her sabbatical to conclude her project on the daughters of Isabella de Clare and William DeMarshall. The book will explore the family as a political and

social unit during the 13th century and how it altered the nature of the definition of political community and shaped the political world of England, Ireland, and Wales between 1220 and 1400. Between her research trips, Mitchell is looking forward to golf season, a major gardening project, and is hoping to take dance classes rather than teach them. She currently teaches History, Dance, Fine Arts Theory, and Critical Discourse Studies. She is also Director of the First-Year Experience, Co-Chair of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies minor with Fiona Tolhurst, and Associate Editor for *Historical Reflections*. Dr. Mitchell also has a cat, Bo, short for Bohemod Blundeville, her favorite figure from the first Crusade.

**Gary Ostrower**, long-time resident and six-term Mayor of Alfred, has been teaching at AU since 1969. He is currently conducting research and teaching at Aarhus University in Denmark, as a Fulbright Senior Lecturer. The Fulbright Program facilitates exchange programs for faculty and graduate students. Ostrower is teaching about the Vietnam War and post- WWII US history. There are only sixty faculty members from around the world in the Fulbright program. When this distinguished and devoted History professor isn’t enlightening students, he enjoys tennis, skiing, and spending time with his female dog Fido (and yes, he knows it’s a male name).

In November 2004, **Pamela Schultz** presented a paper, “The Moral Panic Over Child Sexual Abuse: A Critical Inquiry,” at the National Communication Association’s annual convention in Chicago, IL. Her new book, *Not Monsters: Analyzing the Stories of Child Molesters*, was published in January 2005 by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. This semester, Schultz is at home with her five-year-old daughter and her newborn son, Brysen, whom she playfully describes as “utterly adorable, but a typical male: demanding, easily distracted, and incredibly time-consuming.” She is also in the process of putting together a prospectus for a textbook on communication ethics.

**Becky Prophet** will spend the rest of her sabbatical and the entire summer trying to

get over the fact that no one even dimly considered her for Pope. What, not Catholic? What, not male? My, my, my, my, MY, what a restricted and restricting job description. Oh, there is that little bit about the name, too—it’s Old Testament, not New. Becky Prophet will spend the summer working on four major projects: The Lake Alfred Festival, her Alfred University Reunion (guess what number it is!), a theatre event for the Performing Arts Reunion, and an essay on Marlin Miller. She will also travel to San Francisco for the annual Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference, where she will direct a reading of a new play, present a paper, and serve on two panels. Although she has enjoyed a productive sabbatical, she is looking forward to returning to a full teaching and directing load in the fall.

**Fiona Tolhurst** is back from sabbatical this semester and is in the process of finishing her book, *Geoffrey of Monmouth as Feminist Historian, Mythmaker, and Mythographer*. This July, Tolhurst will present a paper at the International Arthurian Society Conference in Utrecht. Dr. Tolhurst also has her hands full teaching two Writing 102 classes and team-teaching a travel course, Rome from Empire to Renaissance, with Linda Mitchell. Tolhurst is currently overseeing the first practicum course for The Alphadelphian newsletter. She has been approved to adopt a dog through the Australian Shepherd League (<<http://www.aussierescue.org/>>) and hopes to adopt a playmate for her 11-year-old Aussie, Jazz, over the summer.

**Gail Walker**, Professor of Psychology, was the first Director of Women’s Studies at AU from 1982-84. Currently Walker is teaching two Women’s Studies courses: one is The Psychology of Women and the other is Human Sexuality. Both classes are very popular with AU students because Walker makes every class interesting. These classes cover everything from gender stereotypes, to love relationships to STD prevention, to the history of sex. Walker also makes class more exciting by having activities and bringing in guest speakers relating to the subject of discussion. Guest speakers come in and talk about birth control, STD prevention and pregnancy. Walker also brings in a

Chidokwan Karate and in KakkoRyu JuJitsu to present a workshop of Self-Defense. When Walker is not having fun teaching her students, she is gathering research on attitudes about medical euthanasia. Because of Walker's impressive research on issues related to medical euthanasia, she was able to have an article published in the Handbook of Death and Dying. Off-duty fun for Walker includes shooting hoops, listening to music, four-wheeling, fishing for bass, and Texas No-Limit Hold-Em.

**Carol Burdick** was prevented by ill health from giving a conference paper at the Rachel Carson Conference in Maine last June. However, she is looking forward to having a chapter published in a new anthology from Rutgers University Press. Vicki Eaklor has had a busy year and is looking forward to her sabbatical in the fall, during which she will be catching up on daytime TV. Last

fall she published a critical essay on the play *Tara Firma* by Jennifer Haley (a parody of *Gone With the Wind*) for the 12th Annual International Women's Playwriting Festival, Perishable Theatre, Providence, RI and in February she gave two papers at the "Lesbian Lives XII" Conference in Dublin, Ireland, on being out in the classroom, and on Lesbian Feminism. In June she will be the commenter on a panel on queer media at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in June. Her edition of HRC founder Steve Endean's memoirs, *Bringing Lesbian and Gay Rights Into the Mainstream: Twenty Years of Progress*, is scheduled to be released by The Haworth Press in the fall.

**Pam Lakin** has been busy this year doing work for the Study Abroad Program. Recently she has visited both Spain and Sarajevo. While in Sarajevo,

she met Petra Visscher, who recently became our Study Abroad Director. On this same trip, Lakin also reconnected with her little sister from Chatham College, Vivian Lowery Derryck. Thanks to Lakin's travels, AU gained both an outstanding Director of Study Abroad and an inspiring Riley Lecturer for 2005.

**Susan Morehouse** currently holds the Gertz Chair in Writing. She has recently published a story entitled "Just Life, Not Tragedy" in *Literal Latte*. She is the recipient of the 2005 Abigail Allen Award. When she is not teaching or writing, she and her daughter Lora are developing their English riding skills. Morehouse says, "I am regularly jumping 2'6" to 2'9". Well, actually the horse is jumping that, and I am managing to stay on."

## Meet the New Faculty at AU

Alfred University is always looking to improve the educational experience it offers to students through its faculty hires, so it is not surprising that this year's new professors are well-rounded. Two new Women's Studies faculty members have joined the AU community: Melissa Ryan and Robert Stein. Although Ryan is an English professor and Stein is a Political Science professor, they are both committed to teaching WMST courses and to integrating gender issues into all of their courses.

Melissa Ryan, Assistant Professor of English, says that gender issues are central to all of her courses. So far Ryan has only taught one Women's Studies course, *Native American Literature*, but in the future she looks forward to teaching another WMST class.

Ryan is originally from Syracuse, but comes most recently from Tucson, AZ, where she recently completed graduate

work at the University of Arizona.

Ryan commutes every day to Alfred from Geneseo because she values the intimacy and intensity of our small school.

Ryan knew immediately that AU was where she wanted to be. Ryan wanted to find the same kind of "student-centered, teaching-oriented experience" that she enjoyed so much at Middlebury College, where she completed her undergraduate education.

Before coming to AU Robert Stein, Assistant Professor of Political Science, taught many Women's Studies courses including *Introduction to Women's Studies* and *Feminist Political Theory*. He feels that gender issues are part of all his classes here.

Stein taught at AU four years ago on a one-year contract and could not wait for a full-time position to become available.

Stein is originally from San Jose, CA, but he has lived in Boston, Switzerland, and Michigan. Stein completed his undergraduate work at Stanford University and his graduate work at the University of Michigan. He now lives just outside of Rochester with his partner Andrea and eight-year-old son, Pablo.

He came back to AU because he "appreciates the commitment to teaching at AU" and he very much "enjoys working with the people in his division."

~Adrienne Egglinger

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