

THE

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Riley Lecturer Encourages Women to "Break a Leg"

BY ABILGAIL GRIFFITH

When that ol' glass ceiling gets you down, break it.

This was the message of Casey Stangl, an award-winning director of theatre and opera, who presented the 13th annual Charles and Elizabeth Hallenback Riley Lecture in Women's Studies on March 31 in the Powell Campus Center's Knight Club.

Stangl's talk, entitled "The Good, the Bad, and the Pretty: A Woman Director in American Theatre," focused on her growth as a director and the unique challenges she faced as a woman in the male-dominated world of directing. She chose the title of her speech with her distinct situation in mind.

"The good? I was only the third woman to direct a play in the 45-year history of the Guthrie [theatre]," Stangl said. "The bad? Well, that I was only the third woman in the 45-year history of the theatre to direct a play there!"

Stangl repeatedly emphasized the importance of "self-reliance" and ambition, two skills she learned very early on in her career. When she was just seven, Stangl



Award-winning director Casey Stangl presented the 2008 Riley Lecture on Mar. 31

told her mother that she had been given a solo in her dance recital. After weeks of practicing, Stangl's mother asked her daughter's instructor about the solo.

"My instructor said 'what solo?' That was probably my earliest example of visualizing what I wanted!" Stangl said, laughing.

Stangl began her theatrical career in high school as a choreographer. The director she worked with encouraged her to pursue choreography because he felt it was a "good way for a woman to work her way into the arts."

"My internal response to this was 'I want to do what you're doing,'" Stangl said. "I wanted to be in charge!"

Stangl got her wish and went on to become the artistic director of Eye of the Storm Theatre, a company she co-founded in Minneapolis, MN. There she acted as a mentor to many other young women looking to make it in the theatre world.

"I surrounded myself with smart, young women," Stangl said. "I realized the value of [mentoring] and how rewarding that could be."

As a young director, Stangl was largely without mentors while growing up. She discussed the subliminal gender discrimination that can often occur in

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VAGINA MONOLOGUES



Alfred students performed *The Vagina Monologues* on Feb. 11 in Holmes Auditorium in celebration of V-Day. The event was sponsored by WIC, and raised over \$1200 dollars for Community Action, an upstate New York rape crisis program.

Activism Honored with Abigail Allen Award

Each year, a faculty member, student, and alumna are recognized for their contributions to women's lives at AU with the Abigail Allen award, named for the feminist foremother whose spouse was AU's second president.

The 2008 faculty award was presented to Professor of History Linda Mitchell, whose expertise in medieval women's history has resulted in three completed books (and three more in progress), countless articles and papers, and many a Bergren Forum and Women's Studies Roundtable. As "an active teacher and scholar of women's issues, a tireless advocate for women on campus, and an important role model for young women," the qualities for which she was nominated, Mitchell has enriched AU women's lives both in the classroom and beyond. Her colleagues describe her as "a visible model of a woman with brains and convictions," and cite her generous commitment to mentoring both students and female faculty.

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A Message from the Director of WMST

Thanks to the efforts of many dedicated students, faculty, and staff, this has been another busy and fulfilling year for Alfred's Women's Studies community. There were so many varied and exciting activities that it is impossible to mention all of them, but I would like to make note of at least a few.

Once again, our Women's Studies Roundtables brought engaging speakers to the Alfred community. In September, the Roundtables began with a presentation on summer internships by students Catherine Aiello, Jessica Cabrera, Nikki Giraffo, and Grace Stewart. Emeritus Professor Carol Burdick gave a talk on "Women Who Dared" in October, while Dan Napolitano, Director of Student Activities and Multicultural Affairs, and Mechele Romanchock, Diversity Programming Coordinator, spoke on "The Portrayal of Women in Comic Books" in January. This was followed by a presentation on eating

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mentoring relationships.

"The thing is, that the idea of mentorship with men is much more formalized," Stangl said. "Mentorship among men is more established. We tend to hire in our own image, which means you've got a lot of guys hiring guys."

Despite the difficulty women may face when trying to find a mentor, Stangl encouraged all women seeking a career to initiate and develop those relationships as much as possible, even if others see them as "sucking up." She emphasized how invaluable an experience mentoring can be for both parties.

"Almost every job I've had has come from a relationship, from people I've known and looked up to," Stangl stressed.

Recently, Stangl has broken into the fields of television and film. She discussed

her participation in the American Film Institute's 2007 Directing Workshop for Women, as well as her recent shadowing experiences with television directors like Alan Ball, Peter Horton, and Will Mackenzie. While Stangl has certainly gained experience, she believes that starting in film is, in many ways, like learning to direct all over again.

"In a way I'm doing the same thing I did when I started my theatre career—pounding the pavement again and again," Stangl said.

Stangl talked at length about a misunderstanding she recently had with an experienced female actress who had become adept at "getting her way through flirting" and by using her "femininity and sexuality" to influence the male directors she had worked with in the past. Stangl said

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disorders by Shades members Charlotte Judd and Hector Colon; and in March, Linda Mitchell, Professor of History, gave a talk on "Wealth, Poverty, and Power in the Lives of Medieval Noblewomen." We are all grateful to Sandra Singer and the efforts she made to pull these programs together.

The Women's Issues Coalition held lively discussions on topics ranging from reproductive health to women in horror films. In addition, WIC raised over \$1200 for Community Action, an upstate New York rape crisis program, through its February production of Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*.

The Women's Leadership Center welcomed a second class of fourteen new Women's Leadership Academy students. Additionally, a wide array of new programs and activities included the presentation of an AAUW-funded "Dreams to Reality" documentary project on economic security and the pay gap between men and women; a fall networking trip to Washington, D.C.; Women of Influence speakers such as Florence Harmon (Deputy Secretary of the SEC), Evelyn Murphy (Former Lt. Governor of Massachusetts and President of the WAGE Project), and Deborah Wilkinson (Broward County Florida's Global Business Development Manager). The WLC also offered numerous workshops on time, conflict, and meeting management; a mother-daughter reading and reception; a discussion on masculinity;

a Good Sense Gourmet dinner; and workshops on self-defense and generational conflict in the work place. These activities were all made possible through the efforts of Amy Jacobson, whose talents as Director of the Women's Leadership Center never cease to inspire.

This year's Riley Lecture was given by Casey Stangl, an award-winning theatre and opera director who spoke on "The Good, the Bad, and the Pretty: A Woman Director in American Theatre." Casey was extremely well received. Along with her lecture, she met with students in Communications and Theater classes, and she spent time meeting and talking with students from those disciplines as well as Women's Studies. It was probably our most successful Riley lecture ever.

For a small group of people to put together such a wide range of activities is truly impressive. On a more personal note as well, I have truly enjoyed working with the Women's Studies community of Alfred. It is filled with people who are quietly dedicated to making our programs work, many of whom do an extraordinary amount of work without any compensation except for the satisfaction of a job well done. As I end my final year as Director of Women's Studies, I feel honored to have worked with all of you. Thanks so much for letting me participate in these endeavors.

Dr. Laura Greyson



Allen Award-Winner

Reverend Dr. Betsey Hall

on Her Time at Alfred,
Being a Lesbian in the
Church, and Her Work for
Social Change

BY LEAH HOUK

For her tireless, dedicated service on behalf of homeless and disadvantaged women, President of Homeless Solutions Reverend Dr. Betsey Hall was presented with the 2007 Abigail Allen Award for Service to Women. Dr. Hall discussed her time at Alfred, her ordination in the Presbyterian Church, her recent civil union with her long-time partner, Pamela Palumbo, and her work at Homeless Solutions.

LH: How was your time at Alfred during the late 60's? What was your major?

Betsey Hall: I graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. In the '60s and '70s all campuses were hotbeds of political activity, including Alfred. After the Kent State shootings, the school closed down for the end of the semester. We didn't even have finals. Junior year was a tense time with the military draft. I was against the war, but I was quiet about it.

LH: Did you consider yourself a feminist while in college?

BH: I was a feminist at AU, but the Second Wave of feminism was just emerging in 1970, so I was more involved once I got out of college.

LH: Congratulations on your civil union this last summer! Did you have any negative reactions?

BH: No negative reactions of any kind, which was quite surprising. The Presbyter-

ian Church is not open to the ordination of gays and lesbians, but there was no backlash for me... perhaps because I'm no longer a parish minister and have found my calling in a social justice ministry. I have had only good reactions. This does not mean the church is open to GLBT clergy; it just means I am not a particularly important target for their organized oppression.

LH: Why did you decide to become a minister?

BH: I had always been interested in the social justice and hope that religious organizations can bring to oppressed people. I had gone to a Bible study at the Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge, NJ. It was more intellectual, open and interpretive than anything I had ever experienced, and the notion of serving in the church started to emerge. My biblical interpretations looked at the great myths—more like Joseph Campbell's work—and I was absolutely taken with the biblical metaphors. There is so much for people to chew on. Not to say that the stories are literally true, but I believe biblical metaphors carry great truths. Unfortunately, the church has become lost in making rules. I think the church is a great place to teach peace and justice, and I wanted to spread that understanding.

LH: How was your experience as a female minister?

BH: Most churches want a male pastor, especially if they're having difficulty attracting members. Many of the members are older, and they remember the "good ol' days" of the '50s and '60s with the male, married pastor and his 2.5 kids.

I felt like I reached the glass ceiling in the church. There is a subtle, insidious sexism in the church, and it wears you down. There's always the notion that a woman isn't a complete pastor. A woman could preach a fantastic sermon, but people will still say, "Yeah, but her earrings were just too dangly." It's like what Hillary Clinton's going through. She can't do anything right. My female friends who are pastors are wrung out in the church. I knew I had a great capacity for leadership, and I knew I didn't want another little church. I wanted to use more energy! At Homeless Solutions, I haven't once experienced that subtle sexism I experienced every day in the church. I won't ever go

back. In the church I learned about leading and working with people and nonprofits, but I had outgrown the church by the time I left. I was bored. Nobody wants to hear a service when the pastor is bored! Leaving gave me the opportunity to do much more.

LH: Skipping back to Alfred for a moment, did you know any other lesbians on campus while you were at AU?

BH: There were no out lesbians on campus when I was in college. I dated men all through college, and I was happily married to my first husband for ten years. We had two little girls together, and when he called off the marriage, I was utterly devastated. I was heartbroken. A year later I started seminary, where I met the man who would become my second husband. Now the funny thing is, a bunch of my friends thought I should date women, but I never thought that myself, and they never said anything to me. I was married to my second husband for ten years as well, even though he was emotionally abusive. I was determined to make it work.

I fell in love with a woman for the first time across a room. I saw her, and I was infatuated. After about a year of struggle with myself, I told my husband I wanted a divorce. I left the parish when I realized I wanted to date women, because I knew it wouldn't work to stay. My older daughter, who was in college, was fine with my dating women, but my younger daughter had a harder time. She came around, though. I met my current partner, Pam, eight years ago. Maybe someday we'll have a legal marriage as well as a civil union.

LH: Tell me about your work with Homeless Solutions.

BH: Homeless Solutions was started in 1983, and I've been here for ten of those years.

When I started the organization, the finances were in shambles. I whipped things into shape before too long, so they invited me to become the permanent Executive Director.

Now Homeless Solutions encompasses an 85-bed shelter, an outreach center in Morristown, NJ, transitional housing facilities, and 21 units of affordable housing with the projection to build, rehab, and bring under management 150 by the year 2012.

Fortunately, we have had success—

ful efforts at fundraising in our wealthy county. The great blessing of being located in a wealthy county is the availability of good-hearted, creative, and entrepreneurial donors. I guess I'm like Robin Hood, or maybe Maid Marian! It works out in the end; the wealth gets redistributed.

LH: How many people work for you?

BH: HSI has 48 employees. We're one of the larger employers in our area, as far as small businesses go. Homeless Solutions is a small business, and we need to have a great management team to be healthy and available to do our mission. Actually, I'm not so much of a businessperson—I just fly by the seat of my pants—but I surround myself with people who work hard, have their hearts in the work, and know what they're doing.

LH: Do you notice gender differences in power wielding and the structure of Homeless Solutions?

BH: When I take a potential donor out to lunch, I can easily get a man to donate \$100,000, while a woman with the same resources will give \$10,000. Men are more secure in their money, more fearless. Women are more cautious, unsure. I imagine it's because male donors live in the male world of business, and they're more secure in their ability to keep making money. The office at Homeless Solutions is friendly, open, fun; we're always laughing. I suspect a male CEO might create a different office atmosphere. There is a mutual openness and caring that happens here. It's just wonderful. I am always including people in everything; "Come here, I've got another hare-brained idea..." I value others' opinions. I want people to give their opinions. I want to facilitate open communication and exchange of ideas and talents. I see it as putting the puzzle together in a fun way.

LH: You're a pretty amazing woman.

BH: Well thanks. I am surrounded by pretty amazing people and there are lots of people who need our services.



Grace Stewart and Titian

Grace Stewart will be graduating this May with a BFA with a concentration in ceramics.

Stewart has been an essential part of the women's community on campus during her four years.

The WLC has been a second home to Stewart where she has been office assistant, an intern, an art curator, and the



Catherine Aiello



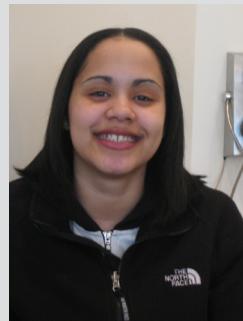
Catherine Aiello will graduate this May with a BFA in Art and Design, and a minor in Spanish.

Aiello's senior show will focus on Catholic religious art and the variation of the holy figures that various cultures and societies produce.

She has been interviewing people on how they perceive the Virgin Mary and creating prints based on their perceptions.

The Abigail Allen award recipient this year, Aiello is widely involved in the women's community on campus.

She is the co-coordinator of WIC, a member of this year's AAUW-funded grant project Dreams to Reality, a member of the 2006 CAP team for Finding the Line, a mentor in the WLC's Wellsville mentoring program, and the list goes on. Last year Aiello spent her summer working with a group of international students and a local women's cooperative in Puebla, Mexico on sustainable development projects.



Jessica Cabrera

Jessica Cabrera will graduate this May with a Communication Studies major.

Cabrera was a member of the first group to graduate from Alfred University's Women's Leadership Academy. She has also served as Women's Leadership Center Mentor and was the 2008 recipient of the Women's Leadership in Excellence Award.

In addition to being very active in the WLC community, Cabrera is a member and leader in numerous campus organizations. She

served as the H/EOP Mentoring Program and Reunion Coordinator, the director of Drawn to Diversity, the A.L.A.N.A. Reunion Coordinator, and as a member of the Diversity Education Committee and University Judicial Board. Among her many other accomplishments, Cabrera also founded the popular campus organization Taste Buds.

Upon graduating, Cabrera will return to the University of Columbia's Medical School to serve as an intern through the NASPA Fellows Program. In the fall, she plans to attend graduate school at Columbia to pursue a degree in higher education administration.

newsletter editor.

She has also played a role in the AAUW-funded CAP projects on campus: Dreams to Reality and Finding the Line.

Last year Stewart spent her summer in Ghana working with orphans. She has based her senior art show around this experience.



Kathie and Aquilie Arseno

Kathie Arseno will graduate this May with a Sociology major and a Women's Studies minor.

Over her years at Alfred University, Arseno has taken a vast array of WMST courses, including Women Writers, the Sociology of Families, and Social Welfare Institutions. Arseno states that everything she has learned in her WMST classes has been like a "survival kit" for being a single, young Latina mother to her son, Aquilie.

"I feel like I was able to beat the system and stereotypes connected to young, single mothers by knowing the traps that society creates for women," said Arseno, "and knowing how to work against them."

Arseno is currently working hard on her WMST independent study piece. Her project will consist of a collection of short stories and personal essays that speak to her "experiences with identity, race, and gender issues."



Are Traditions Always Meant to be Followed?

BY JILL BALZANO

- "Marriage is about becoming one. Taking your husband's last name is part of that," declares my cousin from the end of the table. Excellent Christmas dinner talk, huh? It was my fault; I felt the conversation needed some spice.
- Why I chose that particular direction, I do not know. I guess the topic has just been on my mind recently.

- I come from an Italian, Roman Catholic background. Tradition is important. So, for most of my childhood and adolescence, I never questioned the way things were done or really even thought about what any of the traditions meant. Since I entered the world of college, my attitude has changed drastically.

- It started with religion. Proclaiming myself an atheist was my battle of freshman year. Then it was issues of politics and education, but over the past year, my newfound obsession with questioning absolutely everything possible has turned to marriage.

- After 21 years of not even realizing the topic deserved to be thought about (of course I was going to get married... the traditional way... and have kids), I decided that I couldn't think of any specific, personal reasons why I should ever change my last name if marriage was something I chose to do. It started when my sister-in-law decided to keep her own last name. When I asked her why she made this choice, she simply said, "I guess I've just always really liked my last name."

- I really like my last name. That became the basis for my reasoning at first. But when my cousin, who happens to be male, explained to me on Christmas that marriage is about the joining of two people, my reasons for contemplating the rebellious act of not changing my name suddenly shifted from a simple matter of preference to a complicated matter of gender. If this whole marriage thing is about an equal union of two people, why is it just assumed that the woman takes the man's name? Why not

the other way around? I, of course, said this aloud and, in return, received an answer of silence, which was the most revealing answer I could have gotten.

A big part of my reasoning lies in the fact that I really want to keep the Italian in my name. (Jill: not so Italian; Balzano: extremely Italian.) I've gotten used to my name; I like the way it sounds. But I realized the last name tradition is about so much more than aesthetics and heritage to a lot of people and maybe it should be reexamined.

Not to mention the origin of the tradition. In the 18th century, a legal definition of marriage was established in America: "By marriage, the husband and wife are one person in law: that is, the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage." A woman loses her right to exist when married, so she takes her husband's name?! Awesome. And it's hard to deny that my cousin's language seems to echo this. I guess this law had quite the impact.

Are people just so used to a woman taking a man's name that they don't even think to question it? That was the case for me at first. Luckily, I had my cousin to spark the other side of the issue for me. "Marriage is about becoming one." If that were really the case, we would all lose our unique selves during our wedding ceremonies. I don't think that's the point anymore. (Maybe I just hope that's not the point.)

So while I love some Italian traditions—why else would I want Balzano as my name?—others should be questioned, at least on an individual level. Follow the tradition if that's what suits you. Or, don't follow the tradition. Either way, don't be afraid to do what you want. As I learned on Christmas, my family may have some things to say about the decisions I will make, but I just can't control my desire to question tradition. Plus, they will all probably forget about the last name issue once I tell them my wedding will be nowhere near a church.

Source:

http://womenshistory.about.com/cs/lives19th/a/blackstone_law.htm

Mary Cardaras

BY ALIDA MASUCK



PHOTO BY SILAS ALBRECHT

for the upcoming election, and specifically on the unfair manner in which Hillary Clinton has been portrayed. Cardaras argued that the media exploited Hillary Clinton, crossing the line between reporting the news and actively shaping public opinion.

Cardaras started by saying, “Let me reduce myself to a cultural stereotype.” She went on to describe herself as living in the Northeast (“She’s a snob.”), as a college professor (“She’s a liberal.”), and as a lesbian (“Lord help us, she’s some kind of radical feminist.”). She demonstrated how certain key words trigger instinctive judgments in order to show how the media keeps control over their audience.

Cardaras then read off two lists of words, which included words such as “political, calculating, tough, experienced” and words such as “high positives, inspiring, charismatic, agent of change.” It quickly became obvious that the first list referred to Hillary Clinton, while the second described Barack Obama. However, only the words “experienced” and “agent of change” actually came from the candidates themselves. She stated that “this kind of labeling has driven politics for many years.”

Murphy Urges Women to “Start Smart”

BY LEAH HOUK

On March 19, 2008, Former Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts Evelyn Murphy gave a workshop for college women on negotiating pay raises, titled “Start Smart.” Murphy is the founder and president of WAGE (Women Are Getting Even) Project, Inc., which seeks to end all gender-related wage discrimination—namely, the current 23-cent wage gap.

In the workshop, Murphy encouraged the young women to pause every time they hear the phrase “77 cents for every dollar a man earns,” and translate that into

a meaningful number. “That wage gap means that, over your lifetime, you will lose between \$700,000 and \$2.3 million,” Murphy told the group. “Think about it.”

Murphy discussed various factors that contribute to the gender wage gap: societal pressure and the expectation that women will enter lower paying fields such as teaching, nursing and social work; the fact that many women end up primarily responsible for children and aging relatives; the tendency for women to negotiate less for pay raises; and, though it is illegal, the gap that remains when all the other factors are taken out, which can only be accounted for by discrimination.

Murphy emphasized the importance

Watching the candidates on TV, Cardaras explained “is like seeing the movie before you read the book.” The media invents a persona for each candidate and clearly indicates which one we should prefer. After she stated that “in this election cycle, the media has been harsh and unfair,” she showed the room the raw footage of “Hillary’s tears” in order to prove how much the media packages footage. After watching the raw tape of Hillary’s interview, the audience gained a completely different impression of the moment. Hillary’s “tears” were, in reality, her eyes watering when answering a question; however the media’s interpretation subliminally became reality.

The media has never been a fan of the Clintons. Cardaras argued that in the beginning of Bill Clinton’s term, the press referred to it as “amateur hour at the White House.” When comparing the way Bill Clinton is depicted on CNN to Michelle Obama, Cardaras explained that Bill is shown as “a red-faced, argumentative attack dog-in-chief,” while they extol the virtues of Michelle and say “she’s a really nice lady.”

After John Edwards left the debate, the press attempted to turn the democratic race into a “prize fight,” in an attempt to gain more viewers, Cardaras argued. She explained, “CNN was set up with the mayhem as the backdrop and teased the event like a reality show.” However the candidates refused to dance to the media’s tune. Cardaras proceeded by saying, “The debate was not contentious, but instead a civilized event. Many viewers and readers wrote about how enjoyable and informative it was to watch.”

CNN also aired exaggerated coverage of “the snub,” which depicted Obama ever-so-purposely ignoring Senator Clinton’s greeting after the State of the Union address. Afterward, Obama even remarked that it wasn’t a snub. He explained that it was crowded and he was simply unable to get close enough to greet her.

How does one not succumb to the “filters of press spin”? According to Cadaras, you can do this by going to each candidate’s website directly, by seeing them for yourself and eliminating filters all together. Cardaras urged us to “realize when you’re being bought and sold. It’s about the show, not the product that’s sold.”

of women benchmarking their salaries on salary.com or wageproject.org to determine where they fall in the wage continuum. This will give incentive and some support for negotiating a higher salary. After some instruction in salary negotiation from Murphy, the women split into pairs to practice negotiating through partially scripted role-playing, an exercise they found surprisingly helpful and empowering.

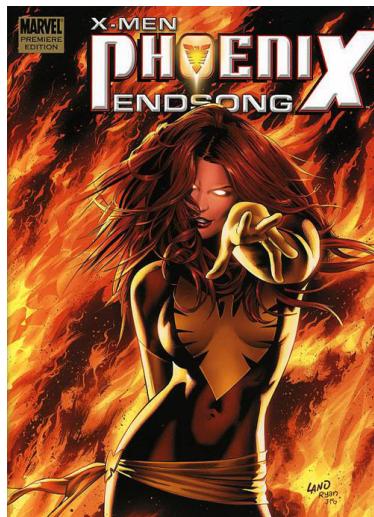
Murphy’s dynamic personality and engaging approach left students armed with knowledge and strategies to help close the gap.

“Just keep reminding yourself,” Murphy said, “I want my million dollars!”

Super Women

BY LAURA REYOME

For most of my life I have read comic books. I loved the



Marvel's Jean Grey as the Phoenix

WAM, the BAM, and the occasional BAMF! I have always wanted to be a super hero, but it has only been recently that I have really looked at comics and their portrayals of women. A Women's Studies Roundtable presentation by Drawn to Diversity's Dan Napolitano and Mechele Romanchock made me step back from my childhood love and take a critical look at the image of women in comic books. It never occurred to me how tight the women's outfits were compared to those of their male companions or how often

they were the ones in need of rescuing. I was often more invested in the fact that they had super awesome powers. However, even in the overly sexualized world of comics, I found myself empowered by one particular character: Jean Grey.

Jean Grey was, and is, my favorite character in comics. As a child, I was enraptured by her ability to move things with her mind, to speak through her mind, and later her all encompassing power as the Phoenix. Grey's power was not centered in her body or beauty, as is often the case with female superheroes. Because of this, I had a powerful role model; I wanted to be able to use my mind the way she did. I respected intelligence and the power of the mind. Seeing that power manifest in a more physical sense was captivating to me as a child. I would sit for hours staring at objects in front of me hoping they would move. They wouldn't.

Grey represented one of the few women in a world of men. Men were not only the heroes, but the villains as well. That, to me, was a horribly annoying trait of superhero shows. I found it hard as a child to watch anything without a woman in it. I did not connect to the men, and if there was a woman and she was purely secondary, I would lose interest as well. Grey was a powerful

woman and a lead player in the X-Men. For me, the fact that she could survive in a world of men and still kick ass made her ten times more awesome.

She is also, arguably (and very much so in my opinion), the most powerful character in all of the X-Men. She is one with a cosmic entity (the Phoenix) who is capable of making and unmaking existence; she is able to move through time and influence those around her. This woman isn't weak or in need of a man to save her. Even before she became one with the Phoenix, Grey was stated to be an "Omega-level mutant"—a mutant whose powers are above and beyond that of a typical mutant.

Yes, I know that Jean Grey's character has some flaws that are reflections of being a woman in a comic, but I feel that Grey's character does not allow her to become weighed down by these stereotypes. One of these stereotypes, one that was at first a very essential part of Grey's character, is being the girlfriend, and later wife, of Scott Summers (Cyclops). Of course, I would argue that one of his main roles was being *her* lover. Both characters play off of each other throughout the storylines, and in recent comics they have gone in separate directions, which really allowed for both of their characters to grow as separate entities. For Jean Grey, this growth was becoming a universal superpower.

Jean Grey is not a character who rests on the backburner. She is a character who can be dead and have just as much effect on the storyline as any of her living companions. She has her own arcs (for you non-comic loving nerds these are chapters or sections of the series that deal with a particular character or theme): the Phoenix Saga, the Dark Phoenix Saga, Endsong, and Warsong. Thus, she is an iconic Marvel character.

Even today as a college student I read comics and try to keep up with the storylines I have followed since childhood. Women in the comics, like Jean Grey, often get a bad rap because of their skintight suits and impossibly perfect Barbie figures, but they can be so much more than the image on the page. These women are empowered in ways everyday humans are not; their power has physical and mental manifestations that are used to save the world. These manifestations provide a mirror into the real world, where, though they cannot conjure storms at their fingertips or move things with their minds, women are becoming more and more powerful beings.

continued from cover

After seventeen years of service to the AU community, Mitchell will be moving to Kansas City to take on her new position as the Martha Jane Starr/Missouri Distinguished Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Missouri.

This year's student honoree, Catherine Aiello, has managed to balance the rigors of her BFA program with a leadership role in women's issue on campus. Aiello served as co-president of the Women's Issues Coalition for 2007-08, organizing such initiatives as a reproductive health services brochure to be distributed to AU students. Her colleagues in WIC describe her as "a really dedicated worker, generous with her time and

energy and well informed about issues of interest to women, on campus and beyond." The Abigail Allen award recognizes the way "she works for concrete change in women's lives."

The 2007 alumna award was presented to the Reverend Dr. Betsey Hall, who graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, was subsequently ordained in the Presbyterian Church, and currently works on behalf of disadvantaged women as President of Homeless Solutions. An interview with Hall appears on p. XX of this issue.

The 2008 alumna award winner will be recognized in June.

Gang Rape Continues in Kenya

BY QUINN WONDERLING

Rape and gang rape – many people think the use of these crimes as a weapon of war is a primitive thing of the past. Yet, this year two AU students planning to study abroad in Kenya had their trips cancelled because of the country's recent political unrest, which as of February had lead to an estimated 1,000 deaths, multiple accounts of arson, drownings, and an unprecedented number of rapes and gang rapes.



Riots began during the December 2007 presidential and legislative election when President Mwai Kibaki, declared the winner for a second term over populist challenger Raila Odinga, was accused of vote rigging and giving 1,000 ballots each to hundreds of police officers to stuff the ballot box in his favor. The two candidates had been neck in neck according to polls, and the African Union, the European Union, and the U.S. Embassy in Kenya all expressed concern about the legitimacy of the ballot counting. However, the problem is more deep-rooted, as Kibaki is part of the Kikuyu tribe and Odinga is a member of the Luo tribe – two of Kenya's largest tribes, which have been at odds for decades. Some people have questioned whether Odinga is responsible for inciting the violence, taking his protest of the election too far and inspiring people to riot, not because of the injustice of a possibly rigged election, but because of ethnic differences.

The explosion of ethnic tension has taken its toll on many innocent civilians, especially women who have fallen victim to rape, and, in many cases, gang rape. In January, clinics and hospitals began seeing more than double the number of rape cases they normally do. The Director of the United Nations Development Programme's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery told BBC, "Battles are fought on women's bodies as much as on battlefields. It is not so much that women are targeted in some deliberate way but their vulnerability makes them easy targets for anger, for frustration, and for people wanting to cripple or paralyze other segments of the community in which they live."

In any country, finding accurate statistics of the number of rape victims in an area is practically impossible. The number of reported cases is typically far lower than the actual number, for several reasons. In Kenya, many people have abandoned their homes in search of safer shelter in churches and schools, while

approximately 255,000 others have been internally displaced, as of February. Many have fled to neighboring Uganda, Tanzania, and Somalia. These women's first priority isn't reporting their rape; it's finding food, water, and shelter for themselves and their children. Some are trapped where they are, unable to move without risking more violence – which creates an even bigger problem. If they wait longer than 72 hours to seek treatment, they can no longer be considered a viable candidate for PEP (post exposure prophylaxis), the anti-retroviral drugs that can stop HIV from infecting the body. The Red Cross and other outreach programs have made the drugs available and continue their efforts to offer help in any way they can, but many rape survivors say they are reluctant to report their encounters because they believe the police have no power to protect them anyway. And, as UNICEF spokeswoman Veronique Taveau has reported, after committing these rapes, groups of men then threaten their victims with more violence if they report it.

Women are not the only victims. The hospitals had also reportedly treated approximately 63 children by mid-February, both male and female, for rape-related trauma, including a one-year-old baby.

So why, in 2008, is this kind of atrocity still happening? The fact is that rape is still a powerful, effective war tactic. In the case of Kenya's warring ethnic tribes, it could serve several possible purposes – to serve as a threat to the opposing tribesmen, akin to holding the women hostage, or as a means of revenge, to actually impregnate the women in order to achieve "ethnic cleansing" and for the added shame and humiliation of carrying one of their children to term (as many of these women would be compelled to do), to punish women thought to be sympathetic to the opponent's cause, and finally, to serve as a means of payment for mercenary soldiers.

And it goes unpunished. According to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, historically, "[rape] remains the least condemned war crime." Despite its effectiveness as a weapon, rape is often seen as personal or sexual – meaning it is not seen as political and is thus not deemed a priority problem in times of conflict. Perhaps most sadly, no real change can be expected soon, in Kenya or anywhere else that hasn't yet fully recognized the injustice, the violation of basic human rights. Women will remain no more than pawns or property. As the Human Rights Watch organization reported, "[rape] has long been mischaracterized and dismissed by...those in a position to stop it – as a private crime, a sexual act, the ignoble act of the occasional soldier; worse still, it has been accepted precisely because it is so commonplace."

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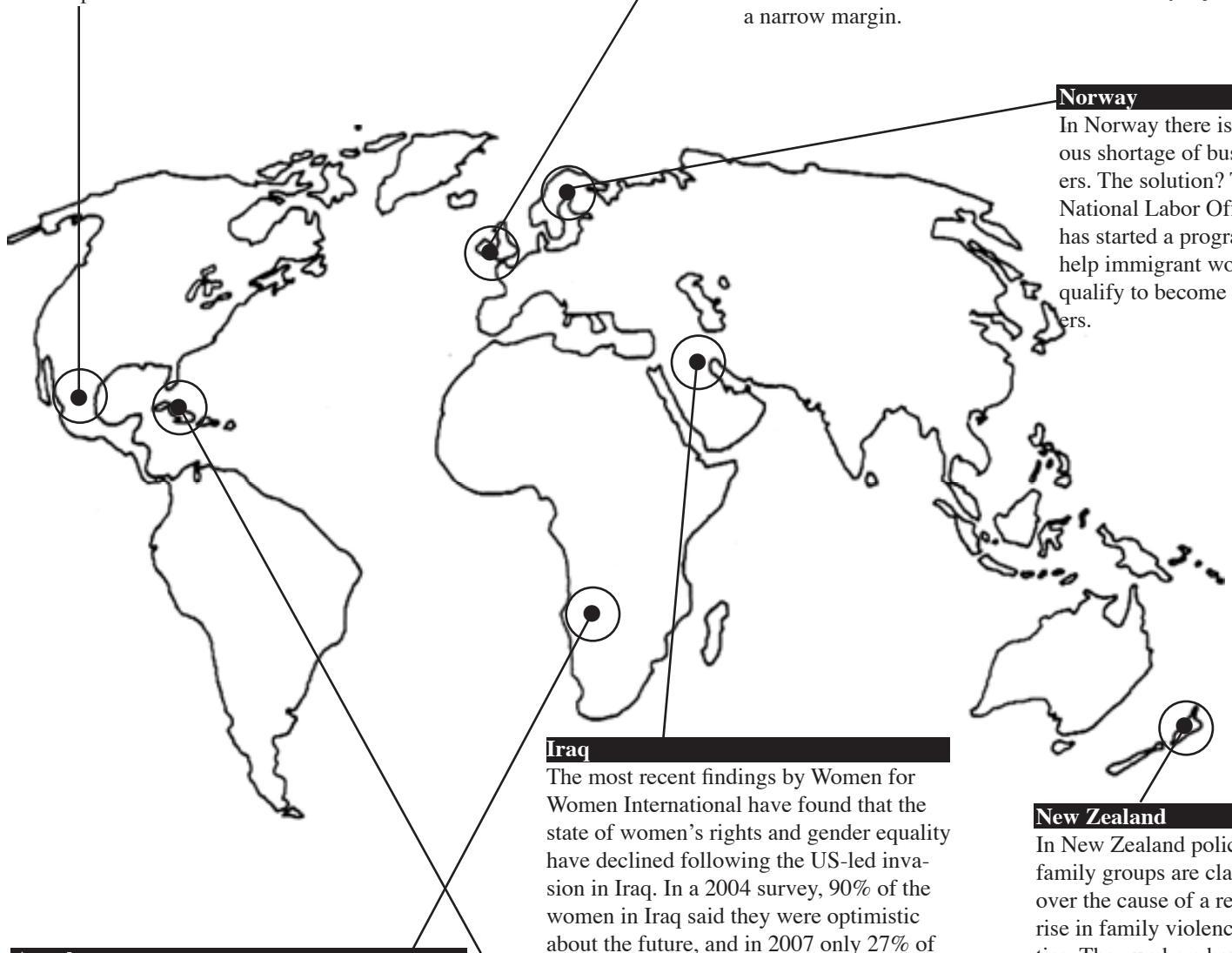
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World News

Mexico

Mexican authorities have started allowing babies born in jail to remain with their mothers until they reach the age of six. Supporters of this program argue that it helps children avoid the stress of being separated from a parent, while also motivating mothers to learn how to take on more responsibility. Proponents of this new plan also believe it could lead to a drastic drop in the rate of re-offending among mothers in prison.



Angola

On April 2, a "Miss Landmine Survivor" contest was held in the Angolan capital city of Luanda. Aimed at raising awareness and the confidence of its contestants, the event was organized by Angola's de-mining commission. Each of the 18 women who competed had been maimed by landmines that were planted in Angola over the course of a 27-year civil war. Though the war officially concluded in 2002, millions of mines still have yet to be removed.

Iraq

The most recent findings by Women for Women International have found that the state of women's rights and gender equality have declined following the US-led invasion in Iraq. In a 2004 survey, 90% of the women in Iraq said they were optimistic about the future, and in 2007 only 27% of the women were optimistic.

Cuba

Mariela Castro, daughter of Cuban president Raul Castro, is currently working to get the Cuban National Assembly to adopt what would become the most liberal LGBT rights law in Latin America. The proposed bill would not only recognize same-sex unions and inheritance rights, but also give transsexuals the right to free sex-change operations.

United Kingdom

In Wales a vote took place to decide whether or not women priests should be allowed to be bishops. The bill was a controversial one, and was backed by the Archbishop of Wales. However, opposition to the bill was large. Those opposed questioned the right to change something that is tradition in the Church. The bill was ultimately rejected by a narrow margin.

Norway

In Norway there is a serious shortage of bus drivers. The solution? The National Labor Office has started a program to help immigrant women qualify to become drivers.

New Zealand

In New Zealand police and family groups are clashing over the cause of a recent rise in family violence statistics. The numbers have risen by 6,000 violent offenses since last year. The Police Minister Annette King notes that the media's coverage of domestic violence has encouraged women to come forward.

faculty profiles

“Uncomfortable!” is how **Associate Professor of French and Chair of Modern Languages Cecilia Beach** describes a camel ride she took in China this past summer. Beach participated in a faculty development seminar through the Counsel for International Education Exchange that involved traveling the Silk Road by several forms of transportation—one of them camel. Beach will return to China this coming summer for another CIEE seminar and would like to include a trip to Tibet on the itinerary.

In her French Literature class this semester, Beach is teaching three women authors: Colette, Sarraute, and Sand.

Beach will soon publish an article in 19th Century French Studies, entitled “*Savoir c'est Pouvoir: Integral Education in the Novels of André Léo*,” about progressive theories of education that the 19th century French female novelist explored and championed. Beach is also writing a related paper, “The Literary Culture of Workers, Women and Peasants in the Novels of André Léo,” for an upcoming Women in French conference.

When Sylvia Bryant, Executive Director of Capital Campaigns, is not living life “by the seat of her pants,” she can be found in the recently re-constructed Fasano House. Though Bryant rarely gets to interact with students, she is an integral part of the University. Not only does she work as a key part of University Relations, but she has also been a part of the advisory board of the Women’s Leadership Center and given workshops on Grant Writing.

This March Bryant presented two papers at the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals conferences: “My So-Called Life (as an Interim Vice President),” co-authored with VP of Student Affairs Kathy Woughter, and “Feminist-Focused Fundraising for Women’s Centers,” co-authored with Women’s Leadership Center Director Amy Jacobson. When she is not working with alumni or the Women’s Leadership Center, Bryant can be found spending time with her two boys, aged seven and ten.

Though she jokes about not considering herself a “real writer,” **Assistant Professor of English Emerita Carol Burdick**, fondly known as CB, has a new book out. *Haps and Mishaps* is a compilation of the columns Burdick completed

for the *Alfred Sun* over the years, where she explores the small details of the rural life. Whitlock Publishing, a new publishing company created by Professor of English Allen Grove, published Burdick’s book. “I’m so pleased that Allen is doing this because, as an octogenarian, I didn’t think I’d get to have another book,” said Burdick.

A past winner of the Abigail Allen award, CB embodies Allen’s exhortation to be “radical to the core.” She has frequently hosted Riley Lecture speakers, invited young (and not so young) writers to her home, shared her books and her wisdom, and offered encouragement. As one longtime friend and colleague observes, “CB combines a kind of radical sensibility that we be true to ourselves and our gifts while fiercely and generously mentoring both students and faculty, young and old.”

Professor of Philosophy William Dibrell says that women’s studies issues are “not self-consciously” incorporated into his classes, but that feminist ideas naturally present themselves throughout the semester. One such class is his Culture and Value course, where he explores the extremes of culture as a way “to reflect on the values that we do hold.” Dibrell uses the Hell’s Angels as an example, though the group seems to be “far from the feminist ideal.”

He continues to work on his cross-disciplinary research involving the emotional basis of morality and community, based off of his paper, “Virtue, Character, and Evolution.”

Professor of Art Theory and BAFA Director Beth Ann Dobie recently coauthored an article entitled “Linking Bio-medical Engineering Case Study Approach and Policy” with Professor of Philosophy William Dibrell. The article challenges the engineering code of ethics employed in the classroom by contrasting the existing code with a feminist ethics approach.

Dobie also incorporates WMST into her Philosophy of the Arts I course, utilizing a non-Western perspective. She encourages her students to discuss feminist art and to debate the existence of women’s art as an entirely separate entity. This spring she visited Professor of History Vicki Eaklor’s Women in Society class to give a lecture on women’s art and feminism in art.

While Dobie is busy with her WMST-related work, her dog keeps busy by pursuing his favorite hobby: shredding cardboard. Luckily, Professor of History Linda Mitchell had helped Dobie supply the cardboard-crazy canine with plenty of boxes.

The door to **Professor of History Vicki Eaklor**’s office holds an array of stickers, most notably one reading, “Well behaved women rarely make history.” Her course Women in Society very clearly brings women into focus, but she also tries to “incorporate women into all areas of history” in her American History courses. She believes it is important to remind students that women have been around for just as long as men. She is also teaching Gay American History this spring.

Eaklor’s book *Queer America: A GLBT History of the 20th Century* was recently released by Greenwood Press, and she feels relieved to have her work over the past two years come together. She plans to attend a conference of the Organization of American Historians in March, and is now “pondering [her] next project.”

This year **Professor Robyn Goodman** became the first female director of AU’s Communication Studies department. She offers a Women, Minorities and the Media course which she hopes “will help our students truly understand how the media covers those ‘not quite like the rest of us’ and how to fight back!” This past semester she brought CNN correspondent and Emmy award winner Mary Cardaras to campus to discuss the media’s campaign coverage of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

In an effort to help other journalism professors better prepare their students for global coverage, Goodman is working on a book that compares and contrasts media education worldwide. And, though her beverage of choice is usually coffee, this semester she traveled to “the wine country” of Sonoma, CA, to review and help improve Sonoma State’s Communication Studies program.

New York Times crossword expert and **Professor of Sociology Larry Greil** stated, “My most important aim in teaching is to have fun and convey to students how much fun I’m having.”

Despite two knee replacement surgeries last summer, Greil is working on a

grant to further his research project regarding infertility. "We have completed the first wave of data collection," said Greil. He is now working on a paper that looks at "distress levels among women with different types of reproductive barriers," a paper on "help-seeking patterns among women with different reproductive barriers," and a paper on "the role that motherhood ideology plays in help-seeking."

You can often find him attending his daughter's swim meets or planning his trip to Norway for a conference on infertility this summer.

Professor of Political Science and Director of WMST **Laura Greyson**'s passion for WMST led her all the way to Spain and Morocco last summer to attend a seminar with the Council for International Educational Exchange, during which she was able to explore a variety of women's issues.

One of the issues that interested Greyson and her colleagues most was the topic of dress. "Many of the younger women are choosing to wear a headscarf as an identity statement, and we had a chance to talk to them about why they did this," said Greyson. "It was really very interesting, and I would have loved to stay longer." She hopes to one day teach a course on this topic, as "issues like feminism are approached very differently in non-Western cultures, and it would be good to have more of that perspective in our curriculum."

This past year Greyson also managed to see her daughter off to college and practice her text-messaging skills.

When Professor of English and First-Year Experience Director **Allen Grove** isn't mercilessly beating his colleagues at Scrabulous, he devotes his time to Whitlock Publishing. While this self-run publishing house is still in its early stages, Grove has already released a new edition of *Wyllard's Weird*, by Mary Elizabeth Braddon, and *Haps and Mishaps*, a collection of columns by fellow WMST faculty member Carol Burdick. He hopes to use his press to get many women's literary works back into print that have long since become unavailable to the general public.

Grove also recently published a collection of early women's prose entitled *Four Amours*. This anthology of 18th century women's work, edited by Alfred English major Kristen Kovatch, hit shelves this spring.

Even though Grove is busy publishing, teaching, and maintaining his illustri-

ous Scrabulous title, he recently found the time to become a College Admissions guide at About.com.

Having "packed up 40+ years" of life on her Almond, NY, farm and headed for the gentler climes of Delaware, **Professor of English Emerita Sharon Hoover** has been enjoying full-time grandparenting while still managing to do "a bit of reviewing" and newsletter editing.

Her ongoing project, an online bibliography of Willa Cather's reading, is nearing completion. "I keep finding new material, but am coming to a place where I want to say, 'Enough is enough,' and let the scholarly community struggle with updating the bibliography."

A longtime Cather scholar, Hoover is pleased to report that "Cather studies is livelier than ever," and the field is drawing many new scholars. "Cather has now become a 'major figure,'" said Hoover. "I am vindicated."

Asociate Professor of Spanish **Ariana Huberman** spent much of last summer in Argentina, presenting at conferences and visiting family. At the Latin American Jewish Studies conference in Buenos Aires, Huberman presented a paper entitled "*El Entremundo: Esoterismo y Creatividad en la Obra de Alejandro Jodorowsky*." This spring, Hispanic Journal published Huberman's article "The Lure of the Exotic: the Travel Writings of Maria de las Mercedes Santa Cruz y Montalvo, Countess of Merlin." Concerning these articles Huberman said, "It's always interesting to me how people can explain their own culture from a foreigner's perspective." In the latter article, Huberman also discusses the experiences of Cuban women.

Huberman has recently written two other articles about Latin American Jewish experience that will be published soon.

She and her husband are "so thrilled" to be expecting their first child in July.

When she is not finishing first in 5Ks, **Amy Jacobson, the Director of the Women's Leadership Center**, can be found teaching the Women's Leadership Academy or driving her children to karate. "Abby can count to seven in Japanese now," Jacobson disclosed about her three-and-a-half-year-old daughter.

During the time not spent with her children, Jacobson does a multitude of projects for the Women's Leadership Center. This year she is working closely with students on a project funded by the American Association of University Women

Grant dealing with the wage gap. Jacobson presented a paper titled "Feminist-Focused Fundraising for Women's Centers" at a conference in Boston this past March.

The most exciting news in Associate Professor of Spanish **Kerry Kautzman**'s this year was the birth of her daughter, Eleanor Jovie, in March.

Although on sabbatical this year, Kautzman has kept busy with academic pursuits. Last fall she organized a panel of teachers specializing in children's literature at the college level for an American Counsel on the Teaching of Foreign Languages conference.

Kautzman is still working on her manuscript, *The Confessions of Maria de Ajofrin: The Consolidation of the Hieronymite Order*, about "a 15th century nun."

Last summer Kautzman chaperoned students on a trip to Ecuador. "It was a great program, and there were no bugs!"

During the fall semester, Kautzman greatly enjoyed being a student in Assistant Professor of English Juliana Gray's poetry class.

Professor of English **Susan Mayberry** tries to incorporate her perspective and responsibilities as a woman into all of the courses she teaches. She feels that it is impossible not to, stating, "everything I do comes through that lens [of being a woman]."

This spring she is teaching Appetites Abroad. An exploration of global and anthropological perspectives on food, the course ends with a trip to Europe where students can experience first-hand the food and topics discussed. Co-teaching with her husband, Tom McDowell, Mayberry emphasizes the various angles of food, including communication, power, and science, during the class.

After four years of hard work, her book, *Can't I Love What I Criticize?*, in which she discusses the presence of the masculine in Toni Morrison's work, hit bookstores earlier this year. She will also soon have an article on Morrison's *Paradise* published in the *African American Review*, all while getting her daughter through 10th grade and finding time to hit the slopes.

During May and June of last year, **Herrick Librarian and University Archivist Laurie McFadden** visited Africa in a Rotary Club-sponsored "cultural and vocational exchange." She stayed with families of diverse backgrounds in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. Besides spending time in na-

tional archives, McFadden was especially excited to observe first-hand “different women’s roles in African society, and the status of their terrible but slowly improving education.”

On sabbatical this semester, McFadden still spends much of her time in the University archives. “I wish I could work in the archives full-time, because there is so much rich Alfred history to be plumb,” she said wistfully. She would like to teach an honors class on the history of college women, “binding it together with Alfred history” using materials from the archives. McFadden’s book, *Alfred and Alfred Station*, was released in September in honor of Alfred’s Bicentennial.

Though she spends winter break tanning in San Francisco, **Associate Professor of Art History Mary McInnes** works hard to incorporate WMST-related projects into her classroom and research. Her Recent Sculptural Practices course highlights case studies of female artists from Lebanon, France, Canada, and Colombia, as well as feminist strategies in 3-D work. Interested students can also check out her Reconsidering the Ceramic Object course, which explores how the feminist movement of the 1970s adopted craft as a central strategy, thereby significantly affecting the art world.

As an art historian, McInnes is “interested in whose history is being told.” She wrote the introduction to the recently published *Telling Histories: Installations* by Ellen Rothenberg and Carrie Mae Weems, a book of modern and contemporary ceramic sculpture examining memory and history and constructing “narratives that reclaim ‘woman’ and her story.”

Critical thinking and keeping the students engaged as well as, “if possible amused,” describes **Professor of History Linda Mitchell**’s personal aim when conducting her classes.

Although this past summer Mitchell spent six weeks in the United Kingdom researching at the Canterbury Cathedral Archives and in North Wales, she found time to visit Professor of English Fiona Tolhurst and her husband in Italy. Mitchell exclaimed, “Italy without 16 students in tow! Something different!”

This year, she will be presenting a paper entitled “The Last Medieval Earl of Pembroke” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in May. “It’s been a busy year,” said Mitchell. However, she is proud to declare that after a long interview process, she has accepted a position as the Martha Jane Starr/Missouri Distin-

guished Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of Missouri. Mitchell declares, “So I will be missing all of you in the fall! But I also want to let everyone know that there will be a lovely guest bedroom in Kansas City—and an active women’s studies community—for all my friends and loved ones here.” And although Mitchell will be moving to Kansas City in June, she will continue to be involved in Alfred activities as Senior Editor of *Historical Reflections*.

Professor of English Susan Morehouse sometimes practices her fiction writing when filling in the “how we know each other” section on Facebook when students add her as a friend. Morehouse’s Women Writers course, which begins with the essential *Jane Eyre*, covers “issues of selfhood for women” and the distinction between feminist readings and feminist texts – she affirms, “There is a difference!” Morehouse is excited that some young men have enrolled. She also teaches a related upper level course, International Women Writers, and is the new chair of the English department.

A feminist writer herself, Morehouse has an essay, “Trespasses,” that will be featured in the next edition of the journal produced by the Institute for Writing and Thinking, *Writing from the Inside Out*. She’s also considering writing a collaborative piece with her teenaged daughter in the future.

While Professor of History Gary Ostrower may have spent part of his year proving his “skiing incompetence,” he still found plenty of time to devote to WMST. He recently published a paper on the UN’s Women Conferences, discussing the essential role these conferences played within the women’s movement and the international community. “These meetings were about empowerment, and with important issues like economic rights on the table, they often got pretty contentious,” said Ostrower.

This winter Ostrower taught American Women: History and Herstory, a course emphasizing the often overlooked accomplishments of American women from Jamestown to the modern period. He also regularly incorporates elements of WMST into his Modern Western History courses.

Ostrower spent his spring break in Panama, visiting his son who has recently enlisted in the Peace Corps, and enjoying some time away from electricity and running water.

Professor of Sociology Karen Porter

Porter is anything but bored! She is currently involved with the service learning initiative on campus that provides faculty members opportunities to explore ways to integrate service-learning experiences into the curriculum. In addition to this, last summer you could have found Porter participating in the Curriculum Transformation workshop designed to help faculty members develop an inclusive curriculum, addressing race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and other systems of institutionalized inequality. Porter said, “I am in the process of applying what I’m learning to my Women’s Studies courses.”

Porter is also currently working with members of The Campus Action Project, funded by the American Association of University Women, to explore factors behind the earnings gap between women and men. Porter commented, “Our project involves a survey of Alfred University alumni about their work and family lives since graduating from A.U. that informs a student-produced and directed documentary featuring interviews with alumni.”

If you see Professor of Theater

Becky Prophet digging around in the dirt looking for layered rocks or fossils, don’t worry – she’s not crazy, she’s a geology buff. She’s also interested in WMST issues and brings them to the forefront of her work. Her recent production of *American Doll*, which uses Barbie Dolls to analyze society’s strict gender role expectations, was selected to be performed at the regional American College Theater Festival in Pittsburgh, PA. This year she also directed *Lysistrata*, the story of how women went on strike—no cooking, cleaning, child rearing, or sex – to force their husbands to bring an end to the Peloponnesian War.

Prophet’s Women and Theater class explores “the way women have participated and been depicted in theater,” especially in western culture. One goal of the course is to discover truths about gender, both male and female.

Assistant Professor of French

Zakia Robana has spent the past six years trying to document the lives of women from her native culture of Djerba, Tunisia. Though it is a patriarchal society, mothers played a major role in many aspects of the island’s culture. After the death of her mother, Robana felt she had lost her oral connection to Tunisia, and it was important for her to collect and document these

details of women as a way to build her own identity, since “nothing was written.”

Every year Robana attends the World Conference of Francophone Studies to present one of her papers on this subject. The conference meets in a different country every year, and last year she read her work in French Guiana. She hopes to one day turn her research into a book.

Assistant Professor of English

Melissa Ryan continues to enjoy advising WIC and participating in the WMST executive committee. In the fall, she supervised WMST minor Nikki Giraffo’s independent study exploring the parallels between literary representations of psychosexual abuse and the dynamics of sex trafficking.

In June, Ryan plans on attending the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women to present a paper entitled “Savages, Sentiment, and White Women’s Rights.” She has also recently completed an essay on American Indian writer-activist Zitkala-Ša.

When she is not teaching or writing, Ryan takes time out to brush up on her guitar skills. The recent purchase of a capo has helped increase her “repertoire of songs from six to twelve.”

When Associate Professor of Communications Pam Schultz

presented two papers last June at Padua, Italy’s International Academy of Law and Mental Health, she got to visit the Basilica of Saint Anthony, whom, because his vocal chords are preserved there, Schultz calls “the patron saint of communication studies.”

This year Schultz found a publisher for her book prospectus, which deals with current research on the moral panic surrounding sex offenders and child sexual abuse, and its impact on public policy and law. She has been asked to write a paper for the *New York Law School Law Review*, and she is perpetually busy being a mom to Eileah, 8, and Brysen, 3.

When she is not folk dancing, Sandra Singer, Professor of German,

can be seen teaching German or Latin. This semester Singer was excited to work women in Roman culture into her fourth semester Latin course. She said that women often get left out of Latin classes, and she feels that there is a good deal to study about them.

Between classes and folk dancing, Singer is getting a bit of an education of her own in Hebrew. Singer says that she learned some Hebrew when she was much

younger, but has not practiced it in recent years.

Singer can often be seen walking her dog, who will be sixteen this year.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Bob Stein is teaching Sex and the Body Politic this semester for the first time at Alfred. “‘Body politic’ refers to citizens, and the class explores what feminist theory has to say about citizenship. The class is basically about the different feminisms and their political views,” Stein says.

Stein has also recently completed two articles. One is on the “implications of Virginia Woolf’s understanding of psychology for classical liberal politics,” and the other looks at the Lumbee Indians in North Carolina, whom the Federal Government have not recognized, and “figuring out what their struggle for recognition can teach us about our political system.”

Stein is the academic advisor for Students Acting for Equality and the Political Science club.

“Between work, spending time with my partner Andrea and son Pablo, and listening to jazz, there’s little time for anything else,” Stein said.

As well as spending the summer and this academic year carrying out final revisions on the manuscript for her new book, *Thought Knows No Sex: Women’s Rights at Alfred University, Reference Librarian Susan Strong* spent two months in Maine.

In the fall, Strong traveled to South America and was in Colombia for two weeks for the official adoption procedures of her second grandchild. “A little boy named Michael Steven (after his two uncles),” Strong remarked. She added, “It’s a very exciting time! And I got to use my Spanish that I have been studying at Alfred for three years.”

In addition, you may have seen Strong explaining the origins of Alfred and how its early history led to egalitarianism, during a Bergren Forum in early March. Strong now is planning her retirement with her husband, Professor of English Paul Strong.

Professor of English Fiona Tolhurst

is enjoying her time in Switzerland and continues to be passionate about her academic interests. In February she gave a talk at Basel College on Medieval literature to try and spark an interest in the undergraduate students. Tolhurst has also published an article dealing with Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe titled “Tradition Places: Orthodoxy in the Books of

Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe.”

Tolhurst also continues to work on her book: *Geoffrey of Monmouth as Feminist Historian, Mythmaker, and Mythographer*.

Tolhurst will not be returning to Alfred, and instead says she will “preach the feminist word here by teaching Nuns, Wives, Mothers, and Others to students in the Master’s in English program at the University of Neuchâtel next fall.”

When Tolhurst is not working on her scholarship, she is spending time with her dog Daphne, who “currently has an Australian Shepherd boyfriend.”

“I look to incorporate issues of gender, ethnicity and social class as much as I can” said Professor of Criminology Jessamyn Tracy.

Currently, Tracy is working on a study of Facebook use and misuse. She explained, “We only have very preliminary results at the moment, but I’m looking to explore whether or not the dangers of social networking sites are exaggerated.” Tracy is looking to answer the question “do all of the media messages about internet dangers contribute to a problem of overstated risk and socializing women to be fearful?”

Last summer Tracy took her son to Europe for the first time. Tracy said, “In Italy, we had a very unusual experience when a local woman on a bus in Rome demanded that some nuns give up their seat so that my son could sit down! It was certainly a lesson in different cultural norms and expectations.”

Tracy concluded “with a young child and two dogs, I pretty much consider it to be exciting news when we get through the day with good nutrition and no injuries.”

Associate Professor of Management Frances Viggiani often tells her classes that she is a feminist, in order to spark conversation. Part of that conversation involves understanding what it means to be an assertive woman. “I am a feminist, not a ‘feminazi,’” she declared.

Viggiani says that the feminist movement of the seventies has shaped much of her life (and her bookshelf). But though her life has been colored by the feminist movement, she observes that being a feminist is an understated part of her life. “I would like to do more work in social change,” Viggiani commented.

Juno: Cinematic Confusion

BY JILL BALZANO

I often wonder just how influential something like a song or a movie can be for an individual. Sure, I've learned from movie theater experiences, and I've found a lot of pretty cool new ideas in those



movies, but I've always just seen movies as entertainment. But what happens when a movie resembles a difficult personal experience and seems to make a statement about that experience? Can Hollywood really shape how we feel about ourselves and how we feel about extremely important issues?

For a while it seemed that *Juno* was a typical feel-good movie, guaranteed to provide a positive attitude after viewing. That was the expectation I had when I went to see it over winter break, and I was definitely satisfied. I loved it; I raved about it; I made anyone I could go see it. Then I came back to school and had some discussions.

It only took one conversation to change my mind and to completely throw my solid opinion into a state of confusion.

Actually, it was more like one simple question posed by a professor that did the trick: If you were a sixteen-year-old girl who had just had an abortion, how would you feel after seeing this movie?

Well, I had never thought of that before, probably because I was a twenty-one-year-old girl who had never had an abortion. I had overlooked that whole side to the movie. I was too busy worrying about the characters and listening to the soundtrack to even realize there could be a very serious underlying message present in the film, whether intended or not. Now, after one hypothetical question, I felt like I had to alter my lens through which I watch *Juno*.

I think it's fairly obvious that this is a film about teenage pregnancy and what happens to this particular young girl when she decides to have her baby and give him or her up for adoption. It was very easy for me to decide that was the main plot of this little independent film turned huge blockbuster. What I didn't see those first two times I watched was the message this film could be relaying about women's sexual and reproductive freedom. And once I watched the film again with this lens, I realized there is nothing simple about it; it has left me more confused and frustrated than I ever thought this movie would.

All of my utter confusion can be summed up (and blamed on) one scene, occurring very early in the movie: the scene in the abortion clinic. At first glance it seems to just be the moment when Juno realizes she has another option and knows what she really wants to do, and is that really such a bad statement for a movie to make? But there is one line that repeats several times, that complicates this scene. "My baby has fingernails." This is what causes Juno to run. Her baby has fingernails. That line seems to be asking how anyone could be so cruel as to kill something that has fingernails. And that seems like a pretty anti-abortion statement in disguise mixed into this movie of otherwise positive stances on women and their sexuality. I mean, Juno is not made into a victim at all; it's pretty clear having sex in the first place was her idea. And the baby ends up with a single woman. But that scene in the clinic left me feeling uncomfortable and uncertain about the choice of abortion. The scene seems to be creating a very unpleasant

picture of that option, and that's extremely problematic.

So, what do I do? I had such strong positive feelings about the movie for so long that I'm not quite sure how to justify them in the midst of the one major flaw I've discovered. How can I explain that a movie with such a large proportion of positive statements about women can also have such a horrible hidden message that sets women's rights back decades? And is it possible for me, as a woman, to still enjoy this movie despite my newfound hang-ups with it?

In one little scene, a lot was said about the sexual freedom women have and what they should do with it, and though I can only assume how I would feel, if I were that young girl who had an abortion sitting in the audience, I would feel horrible and wrong for not having run out of the clinic like Juno. Though I have that freedom to choose and feel very comfortable with it, this fictional movie would still cause me to feel shame; that ability that Hollywood has is what's scary. And maybe it doesn't matter if I ever resolve my confusion in regards to the movie; real life is never exactly straightforward. I think it's more important to just be able to recognize the power a movie can have, even if it disguises the messages it sends.



A Shot at Progression with Tila Tequila

BY QUINN WONDERLING

When MTV decided to produce the first television show starring a female bisexual, they had an opportunity to have the positive influence of spreading knowledge about LGBT women and the issues they face. Instead, viewers got *A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila* – a smuttier version of *The Bachelorette*, with flowing booze, mud wrestling, and a stripper pole. The premise: Tila Nguyen, made famous by Myspace (yes, Myspace), dealt “challenges” to 16 straight guys and 16 lesbians, gradually eliminating them until she was left with her one true love.



In typical MTV “reality” show fashion, they primarily cast the most ridiculous, dramatic, and physically attractive people they could find. This included Ashley, a West Virginia high school guidance counselor, who, upon being eliminated, started a brawl, kicked a huge potted plant and broke his foot, then, when filling out the admittance form at the hospital and read the question ‘how did you arrive,’ asked his driver, “was that a Ford or a Chevy?” I mention this to assert that the show didn’t just make lesbians and bisexuals look bad, it made all human beings look bad. An equal-opportunity embarrassment, you might say.

Regardless, the caliber of ladies MTV chose to represent lesbians everywhere was not surprising, but still disappointing – at least to me. My lesbian favorites were Vanessa, who doesn’t believe gay couples should raise children; Rebecca, who messed around with fellow cast member Steven; and a burlesque dancer named Chaos. In Rebecca’s defense, everyone was made to sleep in one huge bed, an ingenious, but not very subtle way of promoting that naughty behavior America loves to watch. Despite initial apprehensions, I kept watching week after week–partly because I was interested in seeing exactly what image of lesbians



and bisexual girls would be projected as the show went on, and partly because, let’s face it, it’s fun to watch people make total asses of themselves.

As things unfolded and Tila began explaining the weekly challenges, I started to lose hope. A ridiculous yet predictable lesbian catfight broke out between two trashy drama queens, and the challenges included a contest to see who could “most creatively” (see: most raunchily) wash a filthy Hummer with sponges attached to skimpy bathing suits. During another challenge, long-time vegetarian Amanda compromised her personal moral code and proved her love for Tila by drinking a shot of cow’s blood. It wasn’t exactly a proud moment in LGBT history.

I’ve noticed a slight tendency within the gay community to believe that when it comes to media, including reality television, any exposure is good exposure because it means we’re being acknowledged as members of society. It makes sense; I might even believe it myself, but obviously it’s also problematic. Seeing lesbians throwing drinks on each other or wrestling in a pool of foam doesn’t make me feel like part of a progressive society.

However! In spite of everything, ultimately I am happy *A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila* was aired, and that it was such a huge hit. Not only because there were a few productive, meaningful discussions about the difficulty of being gay in American society, but also because somehow, a normal, mentally stable lesbian–Dani, a firefighter from Florida–slipped through the freak-magnet casting cracks and made it onto the show. Slowly, this self-described “chapstick lesbian,” the most androgynous cast member, became the fan favorite.

As we know, intolerance towards LGBT people has historically been rooted in gender transgressions, i.e., not dressing to, or appearing to fit your assigned gender role – this includes androgyny. Yet, most viewers seemed to see Dani simply as an attractive, genuine person. She didn’t talk behind anyone’s back, get blackout drunk, or flash anyone, so besides maybe Ashli, the virgin from New Jersey, she was the most morally upstanding person in sight. Eventually, Dani was the last girl standing. Yes, in the end, Tila chose Bobby, a guy–bad move, if you ask me–but by then it didn’t really matter. America finally got to see a cute, sweet, normal person who is also a lesbian (and who isn’t Ellen Degeneres, awesome as Ellen may be). So thanks, MTV, you accidentally did something good.

The Leadership Difference Makes

BY LAURA REYOME

Why do I want to see a woman as president of the United States? I have spent a good part of every day contemplating this question since I decided to write this. At first, the answer seemed to be clear and simple in my head, but, as I began writing, everything seemed muddled. I found it frustrating. I am a woman in a position of power as Co-Coordinator of the Women's Issues Coalition, but it has taken me hours of contemplation to decide how and why I feel that a woman in a position of power is different from a man.

I will begin with the simplest answer for me: she is not a man. Women biologically are different from men. We have vaginas. We have the chromosome pair of XX, not XY. So there, we are already different, but that is not the answer I was looking for. What makes a woman fundamentally a different leader from a man? Or do I believe that women and men are fundamentally the same, and that the difference does not go beyond biology?

At first I really wanted to say no, we are the same. As an activist of women's rights, I wanted to believe that if we were fundamentally different it would be easy to then take that and twist it so that we can be always regulated to submissive and secondary positions. However, I am going to go out on a limb and say that women are not the same.

Women have a different social history and training than men. We have been taught a different set of values and attributes than men. These values and attributes have often been categorized as secondary, weaker, or lesser in comparison to the ideals envisioned for men. These values have been thought of as important in the home, for raising children, but not in roles of power outside of the home. However, these attributes connected to women are not only useful tools for leadership in the home, but are also powerful tools for leading in a realm like the presidency.

Our social history has been one of playing secondary roles to the men in the world. History is exactly that. Have there been women in power before now? Yes, but the roles were limited, and the men vastly out number them. And let's not forget that, though there have been women in other countries in positions of power, there has never been a woman as president in this country. No, women didn't even get the vote until 1920 here. We have almost had a hundred years with that vote, and still we have not seen a woman step up to the position of president. However, what would a woman bring to the plate that a man is less likely to bring because of social conditioning?

Nurturing, caring, the ability to handle arguments and find solutions, multi-tasking: these are the qualities that women bring to a home, so why not the office? Who wouldn't want to see them in office? Someone who has all of these characteristics would kick ass in a leadership position. They'd be able to take disputes and settle them. They'd help others reach their full potential. And not only that, they'd be able to do both at once.

As a woman and as a leader, I try to bring those qualities to the



forefront of my leadership. I want to be seen as a woman who is a leader, not a leader who happens to be a woman. So, yes, I do believe that the leadership qualities that a woman can bring can be vastly different from a man's. And it's that difference that this nation needs. We have seen what a man can bring to the table; let's try something else. Let's see what a woman can bring.

ALFRED UNIVERSITY 2007 – 2008 WOMEN'S STUDIES ROUNDTABLES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Presenters: AU students Catherine Aiello, Jessica Cabrera, Nikki Giraffo, and Grace Stewart

Topic: Experiences at Summer Internships

Friday, October 5, 2007

Presenter: Carol Burdick, Adjunct Emeritus Assistant Professor of English

Topic: "Women Who Dared"

Friday, January 25, 2008

Presenter: Dan Napolitano, Director of Student Activities and Multicultural Affairs, and Mechelle Romanchock, Diversity Programming Coordinator

Topic: "The Portrayal of Women in Comic Books"

Friday, February 29, 2008

Presenters: Shades members, Charlotte Judd and Hector Colon

Topic: "How Eating Disorders Affect Men and Women"

Friday, March 28, 2008

Presenter: Linda Mitchell, Professor of History

Topic: "Wealth, Poverty, and Power in the Lives of Medieval Noblewomen"

Friday, April 25, 2008

Topic: Readings from Carol Burdick's works

Choosing the Best Feminist for the Job



BY ABIGAIL GRIFFITH

I'm eating lunch with a friend, discussing the upcoming presidential election. We're going over the latest polling numbers and how we feel the candidates have been faring in the most recent set of debates. When we begin to discuss who we'll be supporting in the upcoming months, my friend cuts me off with a statement that's become painfully familiar:

"Well, you'll obviously be supporting Hillary Clinton."

While I've become used to this presumption, my increasing familiarity with it has done nothing to dampen my annoyance. Many of my friends and fellow students assume that because I am a self-identified feminist, who I decide to cast a vote for should be a no-brainer. Clearly, as an adamant supporter of women's issues, I'll throw my support behind the race's only female candidate, right?

Wrong. In fact, that assumption is not only incorrect, but insulting as well. It presumes that I will vote for a candidate solely based on their sex, instead of considering their individual professional qualifications, political viewpoints, and policies; it's an assumption that assumes that because I am a woman, I must vote for one.

But to me feminism does not mean supporting a woman candidate simply because she is a woman but because she is the right candidate for the job. My greatest concern as a feminist when looking for a competent leader is not whether they wear boxers, briefs, or a bra, but where they stand on issues like reproductive rights, pay equity, and welfare reform.

In the case of Senator Clinton and her main rival, Senator Barack Obama, over the course of the Democratic primaries such distinctions have often been difficult to make. Clinton and Obama share nearly identical positions on everything from Roe v. Wade to same-sex marriages. As a feminist, I feel I could support either of the candidates and make a vote in support of women's issues.

However, while Senator Clinton might be just as strong on American women's issues as Senator Obama, I have found her

to be severely lacking across other fronts. On the issues of global poverty, I have found Senator Clinton's policy proposals to be both naïve and unsupported. While many could accuse Senator Obama of being vague and overly optimistic about many issues, he is anything but on the issue of poverty; he is able to cite statistics at the drop of a hat and understands the politicking that the United States must engage in with various international organizations if anything is to be accomplished. He also has spoken at length about the funds he plans to allocate to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS and the Global Education Fund. And lest you think Senator Clinton will be more apt to fund former President Bill Clinton's Millennium Development Goals, Obama has gone so far as to say that he intends on making those same goals an invaluable part of "American policy." So while Senator Clinton might be best candidate for some women, it looks as if most women, no matter their financial status, would likely find economic relief under President Barack Obama.

It's true that Senator Clinton has been given anything but equal treatment by the media. In fact, news outlets have sought to make voting in the primaries and presidential election an issue of race and gender, rather than a conversation based on ideas concerning the future of this nation. But you can protest the media's sexist behavior by educating yourself about each candidate's actual platform and choosing to vote for the person that best fits your image of the ideal leader rather than what candidate coincides best with archaic gender roles.

So don't vote for Senator Clinton because she is a woman. Vote for her if you feel she is best candidate for the job and treat her more fairly than the new outlets are inclined to. And if you're like me and don't believe she's the best person for President, don't feel that as a feminist or even as a woman, that not voting for Hillary Clinton is in some way anti-feminist or sexist. I feel that treating Senator Clinton fairly and with a sense of equality in mind is one of the most feminist statements a voter can make, no matter who they ultimately choose to support.

If you have assessed the candidates not by their sex but have instead considered them as unique individuals who each have their own ideas to bring to the table, then I think it's safe to say you can enter the voting booth with a clear conscience. I know I will.

Student Documentary Challenges Wage Gap

Dreams to Reality is an AAUW funded CAP project that's focus is on the wage gap and economic equity.

The project is documentary created by students with the intention of educating students about the gap and the importance of being prepared for the financial world.

Students who were a part of the documentary have traveled to Hornell, Syracuse, and New York City to interview and film alumni about their financial situations, how they felt AU prepared them for those situations, and, of course, the wage gap.

The film premiered in Nevins Theatre April 22, and will be shown at this year's AAUW conference in Washington D.C.

Considering Power in My Life

BY LEAH HOUK

Lately I have been thinking a lot about what it means to be a powerful woman. Being a powerful person can mean so many things—confidence, capability, influence over others—but for women, power is often mitigated or diluted. This imposition is widely accepted in our society, and I don't know why. Why is it that being a powerful woman is perceived as dangerous?

Wonder Woman, the quintessential power-wielding super heroine, has always been portrayed as voluptuous and scantily spandex-clad, and because she is physically attractive to men, she is less threatening. She still depends on the attention of male readers to validate her existence, which downplays her power. More recently, Hillary Clinton is caught in a bind: either she is too emotional, “too much of a woman,” or she is unfeeling, “calculating,” and unwomanly. She stands closer to gaining the most powerful political position in our country than any woman ever has, and far too often, people relegate Hillary to the category of “bitch” because they are uncomfortable with the power she wields.

I have struggled for a long time with what being powerful means to me personally. I am a slightly built, fairly quiet, non-confrontational person, and the first adjective my friends and acquaintances usually come up with to describe me is “nice”—a pleasant descriptor, but not particularly evocative of power. Becoming a politician does not interest me, and I do not have superhuman abilities. I do not wish to be the CEO of a company. However, I do want to feel powerful, to be capable and influential, to have a voice and some clout in the world, and I do not want to be limited or defined by sexualization, or the category of “bitch.”

Here are some of the ways I am working toward being powerful:

- Going to college. Besides receiving a degree, I am learning how to be critical and analytical, to let my thoughts gel, and to better convey those thoughts in written and spoken form. I revel in knowledge acquisition. Whether it's the pleasant
- Taking charge of my reproductive health and feeling secure in my sexuality. It is incredibly sad that many women are objectified and sexualized without claiming that sexuality as their own. For many women, their sexuality is limited to how they perceive themselves to fit into another person's fantasies. I research and read and get the facts. I talk openly with my partners and share experiences with other women. I have the benefit of many older women's advice and experience. I bite the bullet and endure pelvic exams. I would like to have children someday, and I recognize and value the strength it takes to bring a new person into the world; however, I do not wish to have my power as a woman defined by my body's service to others, be that in its attractiveness to men, or its ability to bear and feed children. Those are side benefits.
- Managing my finances. I have been learning about investing and saving for retirement. I have a budget, keep track of my expenses, and I make it a point to donate money. Even though I don't have a large amount of money to donate, there is power in providing resources to causes I believe in.
- Exercising and lifting weights. Building up my muscle mass and stamina—even just a little bit—has increased my confidence in my physical abilities. There is something fundamentally powerful about having a healthy, well-functioning, strong body.
- Playing guitar. For as long as I can remember, I've been attracted to guitar music and the people who play it. Just this last year I started taking guitar lessons, and now, instead of simply lustng after that skill in someone else, I possess it myself.
- Claiming “nice” as a good thing. It does not mean that I'm a “nice girl” who can't stand up for herself, but rather that I am a people person—I am empathetic and I love people. I don't get offended easily, I don't hold grudges, and I am an optimist.

process of imbibing English literature or the arduous task of hammering chemistry into my skull, I enjoy stretching myself.

I make a conscious effort to look on the bright side, and that keeps me from feeling victimized by situations.

- Being part of an informed electorate. I will read and discuss and argue about politics continuously, and I will vote.
- I am excited to see how other women's power plays out in more public spheres; I give them kudos, and I will never call them “bitches.” However, to me feminism involves striving for equality in a society that values various definitions of power, and working to understand and value power in myself is also my vote to reshape the way we understand power itself.

Riley continued from page 2

that her own gender caused this particular actress to feel threatened and upset that she could no longer influence her director in the way she had become accustomed to.

However, once the actress realized that Stangl just wanted to help her be the best actress she could be, the two immediately became friendly. While she has encountered this sort of scenario on only some occasions, she's found that these situations often get defused in the same manner.

“It goes from yelling to kissing me all over the face,” Stangl joked. “I'd like to add that both of these things are equally uncomfortable!”

While Stangl herself has achieved great success in her field, she also said that it hasn't always been easy and that she has faced discrimination due to her gender from time to time.

“I don't want to stand up here and say it sucks to be woman, because I honestly don't think it does,” Stangl stated. “But we do have different ways of being, of communication, and it can be hard because sometimes it's a boy's club.”

Despite any difficulties she has faced, Stangl is confident that those women who possess ambition and value themselves and the skills they have to offer can succeed in a “man's world” if they set out with a goal in mind.

“Make sure you have a vision of where you want to be,” Stangl said. “Have that vision and stay true to the original nature of it and you'll go far.”

Spectrum Update



Last semester, Spectrum sponsored Gay History Month in October. They put flyers and posters around campus to educate people about gay history, provided residence life with packets for the bulletin boards in the dorms, and gave AUTV videos about important gay historical figures.

On Coming Out Day, October 11, Spectrum ran the "Gay? Fine by me." t-shirt project, handing out shirts to faculty, staff and students.

Spectrum held Glam Slam in November and March in the Knight Club. The themes were "The Final Frontier" and "The Lost City of Atlantis." They also sponsored the Alfred Runway series with the theme of weddings. Comedian and Sirius talk show host Frank DiCaro was the main performer.

The club teamed up with SAB to present the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, they took their members to Rochester's ImageOut Film Festival, and they partnered up with Taste-Buds to bring the Taste the Rainbow Potluck Dinner.

Spectrum was involved, alongside Coordinator of Diversity Programming Mechele Romanchock, with making Alfred part of the CampusPride organization, which allowed students to "rate" Alfred's GLBTQ friendliness. The extensive survey not only rated the Alfred Student population and what services are available to them, but also the general campus policies all the way down to faculty and staff health care benefits. As part of this organization, Alfred University was one of the first universities to attend the first ever college fair for the GLBT and Ally community.

Spectrum partnered up with WIC and Pacific Rim to bring Magadalen Hsu-Li, a guest lecturer and performer, on April 18. Hsu-Li gave a lecture in Nevins Theatre, followed by a performance in the Knight Club.

Spectrum sponsors the Day of Silence and Pride Week. Pride Week is a time when Spectrum teams up with various clubs and organizations to show pride. At the end of the week, all clubs come together to show pride and the power of unity.

Spectrum will also team up with the Alfred University Skate Division to celebrate Arbor Day in the spring.



WIC Update 2007-2008

The Women's Issues Coalition has had an engaging year of meetings and events. On warmer days the weekly meetings were conducted on the lawn of the Women's Leadership Center and included lively discussions about the meaning of feminism, women and food, the controversial new Gardasil vaccine, women in horror films, masturbation, and the pay gap.

For the week of Love Your Body Day (October 18th), WIC ran a table in Powell with craft supplies and construction paper hearts on which people could write things that they loved about their bodies. A volunteer from Planned Parenthood also ran a table with information about the services PP offers and handed out a smorgasbord of free goodies, including lipbalm, pens, and both male and female condoms.

By the end of the week there was quite a collage of decorated hearts on the bookstore wall, proclaiming love for almost every human body part. Perhaps the best response to this project was when one young woman said, "I don't love anything about my body, so I can't make a heart." After some gentle prodding, she finally agreed to make one anyway. While carefully sprinkling glitter around the edge, she said, "You know, actually, I really do like my smile."

In February, WIC sponsored a production of *The Vagina Monologues*, which raised over \$1200 for Community Action, an upstate New York rape crisis program, through sales of tickets and the perennially popular chocolate "Vag Pops." In April, WIC and Spectrum teamed up to bring folksinger Chris Pureka to the Terra Cotta Coffeehouse.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

CAPSTONE PROJECTS, FALL 2007

Each Women's Leadership Academy student is required to complete a capstone project. In preparing these projects, each student established learning goals, conducted research, compiled a bibliography of related resources, and gave a final written or oral presentation of the project.

Erica Banks: Erica created a stunning hand-made book that compiles students' anonymous responses to questions posed about their sexuality and body image. Partly inspired by PostSecret, an ongoing community art project where people mail in their secrets anonymously on a postcard, Erica's book intersperses the highly personal responses she received with related sexual health and self-esteem statistics.

Alyssa Blittersdorf: Alyssa invited women and men, both on campus and off, to design fabric squares in response to the question, what does it mean to be a woman? The responses were often empowering, occasionally disturbing, and always interesting. Alyssa then organized a public sewing party to sew the squares together into a quilt, literally stitching together traditional and modern conceptions of womanhood .

Jessica Cabrera: Jessica created a binder that documented and reflected upon the many diversity-education projects that she has been involved with on campus. In the process, she researched the pedagogy of diversity education and examined the history of diversity efforts at AU. The end result is a powerful statement of her efforts for the betterment of AU.

Nikki Giraffo: Nikki designed and facilitated an invitation-only workshop entitled, "Hey BITCH! The Female Contribution to Objectification," which explored the ways that women denigrate each other, thus perpetuating culture-wide objectification of women. It was an extremely productive dialogue, touching on issues of race as well as gender. Nikki received positive feedback from students and faculty who attended.

Jessica Henderson: Jessica is passionate about the need for survival-swim instruction for toddlers. For her capstone project she researched and wrote a business plan for starting her own swim instruction company. She conducted market research and focus groups, and developed a logo. The project helped her think more concretely about business planning in general, and about the possibility of starting this specific type of business in the future.

Kellee-Sue Henry: Kellee-Sue created a book that profiles extraordinary women in her family. Through daughters' observations of their mothers, these profiles describe each woman's leadership style, motivational style, the challenges they overcame, and the opportunities they created for themselves and their children. Also included are fabulous family recipes!

Mae Pennisi: Mae organized "Our Written Selves," an event where women of several generations read from their journals and other personal writings. Mae described her experience in college and in the Women's Leadership Academy in particular as a process of coming out of her shell, and this event as a related exercise of self-exposure. The readings were powerful and diverse.



Alphadelphian Staff:
(top)
Alida Masuck
Jill Balzano
Leah Houk
Abigail Griffith
(bottom)
Quinn Wonderling
Laura Reyome

The Alphadelphian staff would like to dedicate this issue to CB, dear friend to AU Women's Studies and to the Alfred community, inspiration to so many young writers and feminists.