

{FIAT LUX}

April 9, 2012

The Light of Alfred University

Vol. 106, No.9

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Ready to Glow?

CSA Features Urban Designs at Annual Fashion Show

NICKELINA NOEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Friday, April 6, the Alfred University Caribbean Student Association hosted their annual fashion show in the Knight Club at Powell Campus Center.

At the door, the audience was offered a glow stick in return for a small fee, half of which will be donated to the American Cancer Society. The entrance of the Knight Club was veiled by dark drapes and inside was revamped into a fashion dwelling featuring an elevated runway, black lights and booming mainstream pop music provided by DJ Skinny.

This year's theme was "Glow in the Dark Fashion Show." The event, hosted by AU's very own Victoria Garcia and Patrick Camilien, introduced the exceptional attire of commercial designers from neighboring cities. The designs were all modeled by AU and Alfred State students, who were all fierce and eager to flaunt the very urban flair.

The models maintained the glow in the dark theme in neon green nail polish, eye shadow and sneakers worn by male models.

The designer collections presented included Eyewear and M collection. Both collections depicted urban vogue, featuring bold coloration, sporty garments and a blend of risqué apparel among the collections.

The fashion show was then followed by a Reggae v. Soca music after party where music was provided by the band Trauma Unit from the Bronx, NY.

Photo by: Bob Cilino



Top Left : Organizer Shameeka Bromfield with the designers; Bottom Left: The models with the designers; Right: Model Haley O'Hagen Kammerling glows in a bright top by M Collection. Photos by: Amanda Tuthill

Cross Culture Love A Marriage Between a Small Town and a Continent

RAFFI JANSEZAIN
MANAGING EDITOR

Put together by AU students the Alfred to Asia show on April 7 was a fantastic performance. The students from Alfred University and Alfred State and community members from around the village all performed.

Kicking off the show was local band, "The Trees" with a cover of the Goo Goo Dolls "Slide." Good sound with a charismatic front man, The Trees were a great start to an awesome show.

Going to "Alfred to Asia" last year already gave me a good idea of what to expect, not only was there a dancing but, singing, bands, and magic! With a humorous undertone between acts.

The wedding themed event was coordinated by AU students, Wilson Yip who also performed a good deal of comedic sketches, and Janet Cheung who sang a beautiful duet with Jacalyn DeValue.

The show went off with only a few snags here and there, a missed cue or two, and a share of technical difficulties barely shook the performers. Each and every person who danced,

sang, coordinated or even cleared the stage when the curtain fell, did so with elegance and poise. Laughing off a forgotten note and continuing on with the show when the mic would conk out, the performers were great.

"Alfred is a small town, and I think we need to bring diversity," said Wilson Yip, right before I was shoed off of stage for not being part of the show. Yip wants to make sure that the show will be just as good next year it was Saturday night, and encourages anyone and everyone to come out for the show next year.

"You don't have to be Asian to perform," Yip said. Yip went on the talk about how everyone can perform because the show is about bringing diversity to the community. AU has a track record for being a diverse campus and all encompassing.

Alfred to Asia was a hit, a great show and has big expectation for next year. But I'm rather confident that my fellow Saxons will pull off another amazing show next year, but it's going to be tough to top April 7 show.



Photo by: Sarah Shafer

You Missed a Party Alfred Hosts Fowl and OCD: Moosh & Twist

MAIMOONA RAHAIM
STAFF WRITER

Alfred University is notorious for its less than exceptional hip-hop shows, but that awful track record was set anew as of the Fowl vs. OCD: Moosh and Twist show.

The show started at 10p.m. and Fowl opened. Fowl or Saffal "Fowl" Tall is a rapper from Detroit, MI. He is considered one of the best new freestyle rappers and won the nation-wide freestyle competition, in which Eminem was one of the judges.

At the show, he freestyled on demand, wowing the crowd and living up to his title. But what made him stand out the most was his lyrics. They were personal, deep and inspiring. In one of the songs he performed "Zero to Hero" he said "this is a celebration of personal elevation, that means you did it when they said you could never make it" and "the worst thing you can do is stay dumb, 'cause knowledge is what they can't take from you." Throughout his show, he shared his background and where he came from. This rippled the already strong meanings of his songs and brought them to a whole new level.

Since his lyrics were grave and serious, Fowl accompanied himself on stage with a hype man, who softened the blow of his lyrics and got the crowd involved.

At 11 p.m., OCD: Moosh and Twist, a rap duo from Philadelphia, PA, took the stage. The moment they walked in, they took control of the room from the lights to their stage presence to getting the audience engaged and helping out in songs. They had great catchy songs that involved the audience. What made them stand out most, was their stage presence and their dancing. Throughout the entire show, while they rapped, they were jumping around the stage, dancing in a way that looked similar to flailing arms and stomping feet, but somehow, they made this dance look good, and the audience cheered them on.

The show was a success. Many students who aren't regular attendees of musicians and other AU events were in the crowd, aside students who don't listen to rap but were dragged in by a friend, by the end of the night, everyone was moving and the audience was in unison with satisfaction and enjoyment.



OCD: Moosh and Twist ignite the crowd with their refreshing take on rap. Photo by: Amanda Gere

Gen. Eds Take a Rewrite

SONYA ELLISON
NEWS EDITOR

An open forum was held March 28 to present and discuss the General Education Model update. Only a mere nine students showed up to discuss and ask questions about the recently-shared draft model.

The presentation, prepared by CLAS Dean Mary McGee and Mathematics Professor Darwin Cooke explained each of the components of the draft proposal previously prepared and debated by the faculty.

Dean McGee stressed the idea of faculty development:

"Through listening to different feedback and actively discussing these ideas, we're trying to understand the definition of defining the values that come from a liberal arts education."

Main issues that were brought up during the forum included what courses would satisfy the creative and humanities requirements as well as the draft lacking a history and philosophy requirement.

"What's been improved? I'm not blown away by the new model except for the lack of a history requirement," said a senior history major. "It's troubling and I think it's a disservice to anyone in a liberal arts program."

"Several of these designations will be history-heavy" McGee noted.

Under the proposed model, there will not be any requirements to fulfill history or philosophy credits but history and philosophy courses will count towards the 12 required humanities credits.

"We've been doing a lot of these things already," said Cooke "Now we're just acknowledging this and presenting it in our new model. The biggest changes are the interdisciplinary connections at the bottom."

The interdisciplinary connections is a component of the new Gen-Ed draft model that would require student leadership service learning, sense of community and possibly do so through newly-linked classes.

"I think with this kind of model you need to stress the importance of making it crystal clear what counts toward the requirements because the list is so large," said a Junior Comparative Cultures major.

Students aren't the only ones voicing their concerns for this change: the faculty debate is still ongoing. On AU's Gen Ed Wordpress page for faculty and students, CLAS professors are voicing their suggestions, satisfaction and discontent about the proposed draft.

A2A Shines in Holmes



Photos by: Top Left: Rudy Dieudonne; Bottom left and Right: Sarah Shafer

How Many Lives Have You Saved?

Brave Alfred University Students Donate Blood

MARIAH EVANS
COLUMNIST

During the week of the blood drive, held on March 22, I spent the lunch hour, Monday through Wednesday, offering the members of the AU student body an opportunity to make an appointment to donate blood the following Thursday. It was interesting to see who and how people responded when I asked, "Would you like to make an appointment to give blood on Thursday?"

Some people politely accepted or declined, others couldn't hear me through their headphones. The most interesting responses came from the healthiest looking, most masculine members of our student body. These members looked at me with horror; wide-eyed and serious they quickly told me "no" like I was

asking them for their last Gatorade. One guy even held his stomach and said weakly, "I'm too queasy." Any type of blood donation is appreciated by the Red Cross; however, a donation from a healthy, young and in-shape college student is ideal. Regardless, we were still able to host a successful blood drive.

A survey was conducted to see what kinds of people were donating and who needed more encouragement. Out of 72 surveys collected, over half of the donors were CLAS students. There was an equal distribution among classman, and everyone seemed to have a positive experience despite the general morbidity of it all. The most interesting numbers showed that only 18% of the donors played at least one sport, and 67%

of donors were female. This means that twice as many females than males were willing to go under the needle to make a donation. I wasn't surprised after seeing the reactions of the Saxon males on the second floor of Powell earlier that week.

The blood drive was a success and Alfred University was able to collect 83 units of blood for the American Red Cross. Coordinated by the Alfred University Rescue Squad and the Philanthropy Club, the blood drive was held from 10am to 4pm and had over 100 people come to donate. According to Jillian Jones, the Account Manager of Donor Services at the AMR, Alfred University's blood drives tend to be slightly more successful than blood drives held at other colleges and universities. With all of the occurring natural disasters, the blood supply has been critically low and a series of successful blood drives is just what the Red Cross needed.



Let's Get Literary

Two Authors Share Their Wisdom At Alfred

AMANDA LYNCH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Alfred Literary Festival from March 29 to the 31 was a huge success. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, English department with support from the English honor society, Sigma Tau Delta, brought two well accomplished authors to Alfred University for the Alfred Literary Festival.

These two authors were poet and nonfiction writer, Sandra Beasley and fiction writer Ed Falco. It is no secret we are in a small rural area so having these visiting writers here for a weekend was a real treat.

The weekend featured individual readings by both authors of their previous and newer works as well as workshops that gave students the opportunity to receive advice from these two published and talented writers.

"Students can benefit from hearing writers read their own work," said Dr. Juliana Gray of the English department, "since the creative writing department here at Alfred is small it really exposes the students to other creative writers."



Photo by: Dr. Juliana Gray

English major, Jessica Antrobus agreed saying, "It's important for students to meet other writers outside of the faculty, it's nice to see writers who are succeeding in what we want to do professionally."

There seemed to be a general consensus among students that it's nice to know it's possible to succeed in something they are passionate about. The literary festival allows students interested in writing to hear about the craft from those who have had years of experience.

The workshop with Sandra Beasley focused on "voice." By using examples from established poets and authors plus the students' own work, they discussed the different ways of capturing voice for a character. Dylan Sammut said that it helped him focus in on making a character more dynamic, revealing and engaging. The workshop with Ed Falco focused on the

general topic of writing fiction and the ways to think about structuring a character and forming a story. They discussed the ways in which conflict is connected to who a character is and how that conflict determines that character in a way that's symbiotic.

The festival ended with a final roundtable discussion with faculty, the visiting writers and the students. The Alfred Literary Festival alternates each year with the Grieff Lecture and

while this festival only happens every other year Dr. Gray said she would like to bring visiting writers to campus more often. Based on the success of the festival this year, I certainly hope more authors make their way to our small town to share more of their wisdom.

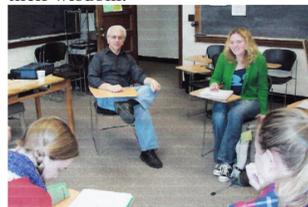


Photo by: Dr. Juliana Gray

From the Page to the Screen: The Hunger Games

How does the film adaptation stand up to the book?

RAFFI JANSEZAIN
MANAGING EDITOR

The Hunger Games, starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Woody Harrelson did justice to Suzanne Collins' book of the same name. The movie brought to life the dystopian post-apocalyptic nation of Panem and gave breath to heroine Katniss Everdeen.

A great film for the fans of the book, but to those who haven't read the novels (I highly recommend that you do) the movie may be slightly difficult to follow.

"The Hunger Games," the first book in the trilogy, follows the journey of young Katniss Everdeen as she fights against other 12-18-year-old children from every corner of Panem. These "games" are apart of a nationally televised event that occurs annually.

The book has many psychological elements as we witness Katniss' attempts to not only survive the mental toil of the Games, but keep her humanity as well. Her mind and body are put to the test by burns cuts and bruises but all obstacles pale in comparison to her internal struggles.

Most of these struggles are downplayed in the film, since the book follows Katniss in first-person and allows us an in-depth look into her head and heart. Katniss' extreme emotional turmoil is downplayed in the film, for obvious reasons. Audiences want a heroin that can be real while making the most of her situation, even taking the time to be romantic.

The other competitors in the Games, from the richer Districts of Panem are called "Careers," they are trained since childhood for the Games, in order for them to win. In the book and film they are a group of five-six teens that are all sadistic sociopaths. The Careers that are bent on murdering Katniss are all played by good-looking young actors. Throughout the film we watch as these good-looking actors transform before

our eyes into villains. In "The Hunger Games" they do precisely that, good looking young villains fall from grace and end up ugly and most importantly, dead.

The lack of depth in the film to the characters besides Katniss and her male counterpart Peeta was troubling. In the book, many of the minor characters remain a constant thought for Katniss. Their small acts of kindness drastically influence her mentality and motives for actions. Momma Everdeen barely talks, as she did in the book, there is no real explanation as to why Katniss and she are at odds. There are only a few scenes between Katniss and her best friend Gale; we don't really get the best look at their budding romance as we do in the book.

Rue, Katniss' co-competitor in the Games, was displayed differently in the film. In the book we watch as they form an alliance and wreak havoc on careers while discovering the impact she has on Katniss. However, in the film, they don't delve as much into their relationship, instead display her as a cute little girl. Sure, we see Katniss breakdown over her death but her shrieking and crying only scratch the surface of how Katniss felt about Rue.

I thought the movie as well worth the anticipation; the gripes are overlookable when going over the logistics of the film i.e. cost, likeability of characters, appeal, and writing. Suzanne Collins, was not only a producer but co-wrote the screenplay for the movie, so I can't be too upset with the way it turned out. I thoroughly enjoyed her incredible books, so the movie is still another medium to consider. A movie made from a book shouldn't follow the source material word for word, the characters can get lost and the movie boring. The movie adaptation should be the book's brother or sister, not a twin. They may be similar but there are clear differences that make it independent. Do not hesitate for a second to not only see the film but also read the books.

Swag Bus Paints the Town of 'Fred

SONYA ELLISON
NEWS EDITOR

The hottest new Alfred transportation service "Swag Bus" is available on weekends charging \$2 per person for anyone who needs a safe ride on and off campus. Swag Bus has received much buzz lately through both Facebook (in both the AU memes and its own page) as well as around campus.

Engineering major Lydia Boutelle, Athletic Training major Yair Lazar, and Biology major Julia Burke run the service using each of their own vehicles.

"It started as a joke that the three of us sort of threw around in writing class. For one of our projects in the class, we had [a problem] to address and come up with a solution to it," said Lydia.

Boutelle, Burke and Lazar decided to tackle the problem of finding rides home safely for students who had too much to drink to drive themselves.

"Brockport and Fredonia are campuses with these types of services, so why not Alfred?" Lydia said.

The three students planned out the actual service last semester and hit the ground by putting the business into action at the beginning of this semester.

They're using this spring semester to get established in AU and will continue offering the Swag Bus next year.

Not only is Swag Bus a great community service but it's also teaching these three Alfred sophomores a thing or two about running their own business.

Potential growth for Swag Bus is good considering it's the only service of its kind in town, meaning zero competition and the easy marketing in small town word of mouth.

The trio has a monopoly on the business. A great idea that no one else on campus has tapped into, we may see some competition next semester but the Swag Bus should always be on your speed dial when going out.

The service operates on weekends taking calls and picking people up. Fridays usually being a slower night with 2-4 calls, while Saturday tends to be the busy night with 10-15 calls.

Lydia says they may adjust their hours differently for Hot Dog Weekend but encourages anyone who needs a ride to give them a call.

A cleanup fee of 2 dollars is added to the primary charge if someone happens to get sick, which Lydia says fortunately hasn't happened yet.

"We aren't promoting the night-life or partying but instead offering students the option to safety and responsibility for their actions," stressed Boutelle.

Alfred winters are notoriously cold but that doesn't sway students from going out, sometimes they get a call not because anyone is intoxicated but because it's cold out! But intoxicated or not it's a good service for the campus, ensuring student safety and looking out for anybody who might need a helping hand.

Don't hesitate to keep your swag this weekend with Alfred's one and only Swag Bus at: 585-466-1716.

"The trio has a monopoly on the business."

S.A.G.E. on Stage An Exploration on Gender



The cast of SAGE on Stage bows after delivering a brave performance.
Photo by: Rudy Dieudonne

BRIDGETTE ORTIZ
STAFF WRITER

There are not many performances that are able to entertain and have the ability to make the audience think, but successful in this endeavor was “S.A.G.E. on Stage” performed on March 24 in Holmes Auditorium. Students Advocating Gender Equality, or S.A.G.E., knew the right balance between bringing awareness of gender inequality through personal experience and entertainment. The pieces for the show, with a few exceptions, were written by students or faculty of Alfred University.

“New World” by Sean Corbin and performed by Anthony Ceden, for instance, highlighted a simple childhood moment about the social gender differences between boys and girls, and the lasting effect that a caustic comment can make on a child and their perceptions of gender. Although a simple experience, the piece blossomed into a thought-provoking dialogue on the gender standards that are set by others from a young age.

The pieces were raw, and delved into dark territory. In the hands of the wonderful speakers, they were that



Photos by: Rudy Dieudonne

much more moving as they were given life on stage. This is especially notable in the piece “Realizations of a Man” anonymously written and performed by Rob De Fruscio. “Realizations of a Man” shared the poignant story of a young man’s realization of a rape that happened to him as a young age.

Reflecting on our society’s need to tweeze, wax, and shave every hair off our bodies, the piece “Hair” shed some light about our standards on such a simplistic thing as body and facial hair. With its infusion of humor, perfectly done by Holly Rae Durand, “Hair” made female mustaches liberating and our obsession with hair removal ridiculous.

All the performers did justice to their respective writers. Each piece stood for itself, whether poem or story in its dialogue on gender, gender inequality and gender equality. “Dirt Under My Painted Fingernails” written by Stefanie Landman and performed by Bellisant Corcoran-Mathe was especially notable as it denounced gender stereotypes and made gender a self-defining and subjective word. It perfectly defined “gender” as a word that goes beyond the stereotypes of men and women.

The broad gender dialogue at S.A.G.E. on Stage lead to enlightening, humorous, and entertaining moments played out on stage. It had honest experiences, and many times, reflections of simple moments that spoke deeply about gender. A performance is truly successful when it can leave the audience thinking and bring a new perspective to a subjective topic: something that S.A.G.E. tackled well.

The Naked Truth: But is it Really Cheating? Exploring Same-Sex Cheating

AMANDA LYNCH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



First let me start by saying, I am not an authority on relationships. However in my three, going on four, years at Alfred University, I’ve definitely expanded my thoughts on what constitutes right and wrong. I’ve been to places I never thought I’d go with people I’d never thought I’d be with.

I think that’s one of the most important things you can do with the college experience—you can’t find out who you really are without trying on all the identities and possibilities of who you could be.

When it comes to relationships there is no true path to success but one thing that knocks a relationship off course is cheating. I’ve been cheated on, cheated with and even (admitting it here) cheated on someone else. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines cheating as “violating rules dishonestly” or in the context I’m using here, “to be sexually unfaithful.”

It used to be that the idea of cheating was somewhat black and white with no grey areas. However there used to be a time when relationships in general were very black and white, gay relationships weren’t respected as they are today (and rightfully should be). In this grey area comes the idea of making out with someone of the same sex. We’ve all been there or at least seen it, right? You’re at those house parties somewhere just past Main Street and then you see those two girls, maybe they’re friends, maybe they’ve just met, but they’re making out and everyone is watching. Let’s expand this hypothetical, one of the girls has a boyfriend and he’s there too watching along with you.

There seems to be a double standard when it comes to cheating with someone of the same sex. Girls kissing girls is considered hot (thanks Katy Perry) and boyfriends seem to think its fine because they’re enjoying the show. I guarantee if that girlfriend were making out with her boyfriend’s best male friend, he wouldn’t be so “okay” with it. If I had a boyfriend who made out with another guy, yes I’d be upset. The first



thought that would come to my mind would be “Why is he doing things with someone who isn’t me?” it wouldn’t matter who it was with—although I may be highly confused. The idea of “the other person’s” gender wouldn’t come into play because cheating is gender neutral. Cheating isn’t acceptable in any case, whether drunk or not, if you’re cheating there’s probably something wrong with you or your relationship. Clearly you shouldn’t be with that person you’re dating. If you have the desire to have your mouth on anyone else’s, right?

“Cheating is gender neutral”

I decided to take this concept to some of my friends. I asked them would they consider it cheating if their significant other fooled around or kissed somebody of the same gender. My male friend said it would depend on their intent behind it and whether or not they tried to keep it a secret. He said, “If she asked me then probably not.” He continued and said, “It sucks to be cheated on, there may be one little time where it wouldn’t be unacceptable but 99-100% it’s usually wrong.”

I was happy with what my friends said when this conversation came up because in my mind by ignoring the small detail of the gender of the cheater with the person they’re cheating with, they’re being tolerant and accepting gay relationships as legitimate relationships. But to my dismay this was nowhere near the dominant feedback from everyone who I bounced this idea around with. Some men said, “It isn’t cheating, it’s just hot.” Even a woman responded laughing, “I’d probably find it attractive but not cheating.”

I’ve been there, I’ve made out with a female friend – once in a relationship and once not. When it happened during the course of one of my relationships I told my boyfriend because it was important for me to be honest with him. He sort of laughed it off, nonchalantly said, “Wish I had been there” and we never talked about it again. But didn’t this make him insecure? Why didn’t the thought that maybe I enjoyed it more than kissing him ever cross his mind? There seems to be this mentality that “guys with guys is gross but girls with girls is hot” but all this does it turn gay women into these sexual creatures there to be the object of masturbation rather than respected relationships. This mentality also completely paints relationships between gay men as illegitimate. If cheating is by definition being in some way unfaithful then it shouldn’t matter the gender—it’s still an act of deceit on your partner.



I’m sure there are circumstances created between the two people in a relationship where there’s a mutual understanding and it’s up to those individuals to decide what’s right and what’s wrong.

Whether you found out you loved the taste of that cherry chapstick or you lip locked with that boy who also lives on your floor and you’re worried what your girlfriend will say; these things needs to be talked about. We live in a world full of grey areas and it’s these conversations that are becoming increasingly necessary to have. We shouldn’t be afraid of feelings whether it’s gay, straight, bi or something else entirely, when it comes to cheating the legitimacy of these identifiers can’t be ignored.

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Fighting Words: Where are Shamia’s Protests? A Teen shot, a Mother beaten, Racism is still going strong in 2012

RAFFI JANSEZIAN
MANAGING EDITOR



Race is the latest issue on American minds, as of February 26, Trayvon Martin a 17-year-old student was shot by Zimmerman, a bigoted community watch member for being “suspicious” while walking home from a convenience store and wearing a hoodie.

As of March 21, Shamia Alawadi was brutally beaten with what is believed to be a tire-iron, she was taken off life support by her family March 24. Her body was found with a note saying “Go back to your country, you terrorist.”

Shamia Alawadi, a 32-year-old mother of five beaten half to death, she lay unconscious for an unknown amount of time until her daughter found Shamia’s broken body in a pool of her own blood. An innocent Muslim woman who wore a hijab as part of her personal faith was targeted and murdered for it; she lived in El Cajon, San Diego.

In the end we’re fighting for the conviction of George Zimmerman, and not the killer of Shamia Alawadi (who is still at large). A blood covered hoodie on one hand and a blood covered hijab on the other. I don’t see a difference when I think that two innocent people, going about their lives were murdered because of racist bigots.

We jump at an issue for a few months then we don’t care until someone is convicted. We are thrilled for a

week or two, then go back to our lives until the next teenager or mother of five, is killed. We fight for a cause then just die down as it loses momentum instead of seeing it through. Another cause that we rally around all the time is rape. Pedophiles and other sexual predators are all dressed as monsters and then hunted down by the villagers.

This is wrong, if we call these killers and rapists’ monsters, it removes their humanity and makes it easier for us to hate them. We have to realize that they are just as much humans as you and I. We need to look into the problem, and delve into the issues that are plaguing these sad individuals. Many rapists, pedophiles and other sexual predators, have serious mental conditions. Most were abused themselves and they never really grow up, they are emotionally crippled.

The demonization of Islam is something that strikes me in particular. Through different media outlets and general ignorance we have come to fear Muslim men and women. Juan Williams, a former NPR radio host, was fired for being an outright bigot, explaining how when he gets on a plane and sees someone in “Muslim garb” he gets nervous and worried. He was rightly fired, but was hired directly afterwards by FOX News. (No big surprise there.)

Al-Qaeda, the global terrorist organization that is close to elimination, is made up of Islamic fundamentalists. They represent 0.5% of the Muslim

community; obviously not every Islamic person is bent on destroying America. They, like you and I, only want to live their lives, find love and grow old until their inevitable death.

Islam isn’t the only religion that’s filled with extremists, Christianity is just as bad. David Koresh, the self proclaimed prophet of the Branch Davidians, he and his sect of Christian extremists were at the center of the infamous Waco Siege in 1993 before they committed mass suicide. Joseph Kony is another Christian fundamentalist; the leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army must be hunted down and brought to trial at the Hague for the crimes against humanity he’s committed.

We need to stop the ignorance that is hindering our progress. In order for a better future we need to get our kids to read. Parents need to stop blaming the teachers. Teachers are not the problem! We need to get our schools to teach acceptance of every person and their faith, sexual orientation, look or financial standing as well as to harness the creativity of our young generations instead of hindering it. Bring back art and music and let the kids be curious and learn on their own a little bit. Maybe then we can end the racism, the bigotry and the hate that has enveloped our psyches. We’ll protest over every hate crime, so we can stop Shamia Alawadi and Trayvon Martin from being just another statistic.

“We need to stop the ignorance that is hindering our progress”

Still Fighting for Equality Womens's Studies Scholar Brings Culture

KELLY MCNAMARA
COLUMNIST

Hédia Ouertani-Khadhar, leading women studies' scholar in Tunisia, travelled across the globe to talk about Tunisian women's influence during the Tunisian Revolution and their role in society now, at the 17 Annual Riley Lecture Monday April 2 in the Alfred University Knight Club.

An animated crowd of about 150 students, professors and community members attended the lecture titled "North African Women: Arab Spring, Tunisian Revolution and their role in society now, at the 17 Annual Riley Lecture Monday April 2 in the Alfred University Knight Club. Ouertani-Khadhar discussed the Tunisian Revolution, the role that women played during it and their place in society past and present. Women's studies faculty member Zakia Robana, Assistant Professor of French at Alfred University invited Ouertani-Khadhar to be the lecturer. Both Tunisian, they have formed a great friendship over shared points of view.

On Jan 14, 2011, as the final part of the Tunisian Revolution, the government was overthrown and President Ben Ali left office. Ouertani-Khadhar reflected on the importance of that day.

"The Tunisian Revolution spark ignited the Arab world," she said.

Ouertani-Khadhar described Tunisia as a tiny country consisting of 65,000 square miles, 11 million citizens and 3,000 years of history. She noted that the Tunisian Revolution was the first time an Arab country rose up against its government. The spark that she mentioned helped



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inspire other countries and the Arab Spring, a movement to gain democracy in the Arab world. Ouertani-Khadhar

"Men told women to 'return to their kitchens'"

said that Tunisian citizens peacefully marched through streets to combat corruption in the political system and lobby for freedom and dignity. For the Tunisians, the revolution was about gaining freedom, not about installing a political party, Ouertani-Khadhar

said. During every stage of the revolution, women of all ages and occupations worked together with men. As a team, driven by the desire to gain freedom, they successfully overthrew their government.

Ouertani-Khadhar said that Tunisians were thrilled with this citizen-driven victory.

"Men and women said, 'We are no longer afraid, this is the end of fear,'" Ouertani-Khadhar said.

Although she was pleased by the success of the Tunisian Revolution, Ouertani-Khadhar said she's concerned about the questions it has raised about the current state of Tunisian women's rights. For

instance, though women showed great leadership during the revolution, they still face verbal, physical and symbolic abuse. Ouertani-Khadhar gave an example about a "courageous" female university student, Kahaoula Rashidi, who climbed up a flag pole, tore down the flag of an extremist group and replaced it with the Tunisian flag. Though there have been brave leaders like Rashidi during the revolution, women are still treated unfairly. Ouertani-Khadhar shared with the audience that during a demonstration by the Association of Women on Jan 29, 2011, men told women to "return to their kitchens."

While Ouertani-Khadhar is proud of the changes occurring in Tunisia, there are groups of conservative women who are hurting the cause, she says. Based on the different head garments that women wear, Ouertani-Khadhar said that Tunisian women are divided into three groups. Some women wear the niqab, a veil that covers a woman's head entirely, except for her eyes, a hijab, a veil that only covers a woman's head but reveals her face, or women that remain unveiled. The three different groups are divided due to their different beliefs. The niqab tends to be worn by the most conservative Tunisian women who feel "naked without it." They do not want liberty, they believe in conservative

ideas and they refuse to take off the niqab. Ouertani-Khadhar said the women who wear the hijab do so for political or religious reasons, but are not as conservative as those wearing the niqab. She said that unveiled women want equal rights and liberties and are very forward-thinking. The conservative women are keeping the country from progressing forward since they still support the old and traditional ways. Ouertani-Khadhar says that without unity between the three groups, women will not be able to gain all of the rights and liberties that they deserve. Democratic feminists have been protesting against the Niqab, Ouertani-Khadhar said, but some women have "failed to break the chain of patriarchy."

Since the 19th century, Ouertani-Khadhar said there have been liberating movements of social change in Tunisia. Some examples include the abolition of slavery in 1846, the inaction of the Personal Status Code in 1956, which worked to give women equal rights, and finally the Tunisian Revolution in January of 2011.

A Tunisian native, Ouertani-Khadhar has extensive knowledge about Tunisian women's rights. She is also one of the few women to receive a doctoral degree from the prestigious Sorbonne University and is currently considered a top women's studies' scholar in the Northwest region of Africa. Ouertani-Khadhar understands the struggles that Tunisian women have faced. She reflected on the start of her career as the only woman at her job. A male colleague congratulated her on being the only

"man" in the department, because she was the only one who had a degree. She was shocked that in her own country women were considered to be weak and never reach high levels of achievement she said. She said that incident made her "throw" herself into women's studies.

In her concluding thoughts Ouertani-Khadhar said that people must ask why women's rights are still an issue in Tunisia. They must ask about personal and financial freedom. She said they must consider why their first lady is disliked in Tunisia merely because she wants to have more control and power. Most importantly, Ouertani-Khadhar shared that Tunisian people must raise questions about women's role in society, fight for women's rights and help them keep those rights, she said. Ouertani-Khadhar says that women should "never give up" trying to gain equality and should continue to try and break into male-dominated areas, including politics. The Tunisian Revolution gave proof that women have power, but in order for change and equality to exist,

"We are no longer afraid, this is the end of fear."

and for Ouertani-Khadhar's to be answered, they must continue their fight and never lose hope.

The Riley Lecture is sponsored by Alfred University's Women's Studies Program, part of the school of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The annual lecture is sponsored by Pamela Riley Osborn ('62), Patricia A. Riley ('65), both graduates of AU and daughters of local activists Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley and Charles P. Riley, who also graduated from AU.

Spring Break for Humanity

MARIAH EVANS - COLUMNIST

Philanthropy is typically associated with donating lots of money to a good cause. I think we will all agree that this definition is a bit unrealistic as college students living in the Alfred community. However, just because you don't have excess money to donate doesn't mean that you can't be a philanthropist.

Alfred's Habitat for Humanity is a club that offers students an opportunity to engage in philanthropy as a college student. This past spring break, members of Habitat for Humanity camped in Alfred Station and spent the week helping a local family rebuild their home after a small house fire. Coral Link, the owner of the home is a mother of four and a past employee of the Alfred's College of Ceramics. Due to a malfunction of the floor furnace, the fire occurred in 2010 while Link was out of the home. Fortunately, the house was sealed by vinyl siding and new vinyl replacement windows which suffocated the fire and prevented more damage.

Led by the advisor of Habitat for Humanity, Dave Snyder and our student body president, Brian Pierce, students spent four days clearing out and tearing down the inside of the smoke damaged home. Each student wore a gas mask and long sleeves to protect their lungs and skin from the clouds of dust and airborne particles of mold and potential asbestos.

The team worked alongside Link's

two daughters who grew up in the house. Both women were extremely grateful for Habitat's help. One woman said, "I don't know where we would be without your help. Actually, I know exactly where we would be and I'm so glad to have students here helping us."

The team nearly filled three 30 yard dumpsters full of insulation and wall boards. By the end of the fourth day, they had cleared and gutted seven rooms, an attic, and a staircase and repaired the floor where the furnace had been. Although they were covered in dust and exhausted at the end of each day, the team had evenings filled with basketball, wrestling, a trip to the Maple Tree Inn and a Saturday spent at Splash Lagoon.

Habitat for Humanity is thankful for the opportunity to help a community member with her home. There are several opportunities for students to participate philanthropy offered within Alfred. The Philanthropy Club meets on Thursdays at 5:15 and Habitat for Humanity meets on Sundays at 8pm, everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate!

Female Record Holder Comes to AU

MAIMOONA RAHAIM
STAFF WRITER

World Record Holder and 2012 Adventurer of the Year, Jennifer Pharr Davis to speak at Alfred University

Author and World Record Holder for thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail, She will speak at AU in conjunction with the Judson Leadership Center's Women of Influence series.

Davis is an endurance athlete and record holder; she will share her story of hiking on the Appalachian Trail. She will speak about her struggles and endeavors in breaking the world record and being the first female to do so. Her talk is titled "Adventures on the Appalachian Trail." She will

share stories of the three times she hiked the trail and the many lessons she learned about personal leadership along the way.

Davis first completed the Appalachian Trail in 2005, after she graduated from Samford University. Since then, she has completed over ten trails and hiked over 11,000 miles in six different continents. On her most recent trek through the Appalachian Trail, she averaged 46 miles a day.

Soon after breaking her record, National Geographic named her 2012 Adventurer of the Year.

For this year's Hot Dog Day Weekend Davis will lead the Wellness 5K Run/Walk.

Profile: Nanako Yatani at Nana's Japanese Café

HARUMI MAEDA
STAFF WRITER

Although Nanako "Nana" Yatani, the owner of Alfred's Nana's Japanese Café, may appear petite and shy, she credits her assertive nature and entrepreneurial spirit for making it in the restaurant business.

"If I were passive and indecisive like many Japanese women, my restaurant wouldn't have been a success," Nana said, while cleaning her restaurant's kitchen.

Nana was born and raised in Osaka, one of Japan's 47 districts. Osaka is known as Japan's "kitchen" due to its unique culinary traditions. She graduated from Kyoto's Ritsumeikan University, which has an exchange program with Alfred University.

Nana, who has lived in America for 30 years, came to Alfred from Long Island with her husband, Choichiro Yatani, an Alfred State College psychology and sociology professor. The couple has two sons.

Nana started her restaurant in 1997 to showcase her pottery. But when her authentic Japanese cuisine took off, she began stressing the food side of her business.

While at first glance Nana might appear too meek to run a restaurant, those who know her say she is just the opposite: She's a hands-on, active boss who motivates her employees to put their customers first.

One such employee, Will Henry, an AU graduate, couldn't agree more.

"She's a good boss," Henry said. "While she's understanding [with employees], she makes sure we do work," he said, smiling.

Nana says being a tomboy since birth has helped her be successful in the restaurant business. After all, she's not afraid of messing up her clothes



Photo by : Harumi Maeda

or kitchen while she's cooking, and she's a clear, decisive decision maker.

Although she tends to be a private person, she is public about her mission to get students to eat vegetables and stay healthy.

For example, she recently added to her menu an Osaka delicacy, Okonomiyaki, Japanese pancakes containing a variety of vegetables.

Also, most of her ingredients are organic.

"All of my ingredients are homemade except for my ketchup," she said. "When students are away from their families it's harder for them to eat healthy food. I want them to eat vegetables and maintain a healthy lifestyle. I'm like their Alfred mom," she said, smiling.

Dana Kang, a first-year Korean student in the School of Art and Design, couldn't appreciate Nana's attitude more. That's why she goes to Nana's almost every day, she says.

"Nana always smiles and treats me really nicely, which makes me happy," she said. "I can keep being healthy because of Nana's food, which also helps me focus on my studies."

Although many of Nana's customers have asked her to open for dinner, Nana says she won't be able to due to her need for private time. She has many hobbies, such as gardening, traveling, attending classic

concerts, reading books and watching movies. (There is little surprise her favorite movie is Babette's Feast, a 1987 Danish film in which a French female chef makes people happy with her food.) She also has three dogs and two cats, which she enjoys spending time with.

"I like saving time for myself," Nana said, with an impish smile.

Nana says her entrepreneurial spirit not only led her to America, but it will keep her here. She said she'll never move back to Japan because America's "can-do" spirit conflicts with her more traditional upbringing and homeland. She added that she was too assertive as a woman to ever really fit into Japanese society and, due to still-existing, rigid gender roles, it would be extremely difficult for her, as a married woman, to be taken seriously in Japan as a restaurant owner.

"I like America because everything depends on me," she said. "America allows me to do whatever I want to ... If I were in Japan, I could not have started my restaurant. And even if I started it, my business would not have been successful."

Nana's customers couldn't be happier that she's living the American dream. One such customer, Zack Allen, a senior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, says Nana's success has made his time at Alfred both healthier and happier.

"Thank god for Nana," Allen said. "If it wasn't for Nana, I would be eating hamburgers every day and be 20 pounds heavier. I would also be feeling more tired and depressed. We're so lucky that Nana takes such good care of us."



Photo by : Harumi Maeda