

The
ALPHADELPHIAN
Spring 2018



In Memory of Vicki Eaklor

The Official Newsletter of the Women's and Gender Studies
Program at Alfred University

Letters From

THE EDITORS



Stephanie Ramirez My name is Stephanie Ramirez and I am currently a first-year student at Alfred University. I am majoring in Health Fitness Management and plan to pursue Physical Therapy in grad school. Being able to experience the job of editing The Alphadelphian has given me an insight into how inspiring both women and gender can be. This issue is dedicated to Professor Vicki Eaklor and celebrates the centennial of woman having the right to vote in New York. I wanted to give everyone a feel of what Alfred was back then and how as the topic of women and gender change in the world, it also changes in Alfred. How the Alfred community can also have created an impact in different ways that involve our own school. When I was first introduced to the Alphadelphian, I assumed it would be a simple task but now that it is completed, I see both the topic and the minor of Women's and Gender

Studies is more important than one may think. This was a great experience personally and the information I found was so diverse that I wanted to share that with others in this year's 2018 Alphadelphian.



Logan Gee When approaching the Alphadelphian, I knew that I wanted the piece to have some color while still maintaining a professional and polished look. Starting with the cover, I chose the photo of Vicki because I felt that it best captured her spirit and the respect that so many individuals had for her, and paired it with a colorful title to capture a sense of the joy that I have heard so many say that she brought to their lives. Moving onto the next few pages, I decided to stick with purple and gold to connect the piece to Alfred University and kept headers and details consistent throughout to allow for easy flow. Finally, each picture and caption was carefully chosen to best represent some part of the Women's and Gender Studies minor, and also to capture each individual personality that contributes to the program. I have enjoyed the hours that I have been able to spend editing

and laying out this edition of the Alphadelphian and hope that so many of you will enjoy it too.

The ALPHADELPHIAN

Front Image Description: Carla Coch, Vicki Eaklor, Martha "Matt" Mueller, and Pamela Armstrong Lakin participate in a discussion group as part of the "Women at Alfred Day" seminar in 1986.

The ALPHADELPHIAN

Spring 2018

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"Feminist: a person who believes in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes"

-Beyoncé

"HERE'S TO STRONG WOMEN
MAY WE KNOW THEM
MAY WE BE THEM
MAY WE RAISE THEM"
- Unknown

WE'RE ALL
BUILDING OUR WORLD,
RIGHT NOW,
IN REAL TIME.
LET'S BUILD IT BETTER.
- Lady Wood, Shelli: Notes From a Loud Woman

STRONGER STANDING TOGETHER

WOMAN
женщина
femina
MUJER
FEMME
WANITA
WOMAN
WOMAN
女性
Babae
ŽENA
KVINNE
WOMAN

a woman is a woman no matter color, shape, or size

GENDER IS A
SOCIAL
CONSTRUCT

A few of the billboard design ideas created by the WGST 101: *Women and Gender in Society*. The winning design is featured on the back.

A Letter From

THE DIRECTOR

Laurie Lounsberry McFadden

Greetings!

Hard to believe that yet another academic year is over and it's time to be reading *The Alphasdelphian* once again! Many thanks to Stephanie Ramirez and Logan Gee for doing such a nice job with this issue. They have captured the essence of the Women's and Gender Studies Program and its many facets and faces. For a minor, we really do accomplish quite a bit and make an impact on campus.

My term as the program director is ending. I have truly enjoyed the experience and working with so many colleagues across campus. Certainly the best part is getting to know our minors! I want to thank members of the executive board for offering their assistance and advice on just about everything over the last three years. Particular thanks go to Kaaren Reeder for her guiding hand with budget-related



items and to Sandra Singer for her ongoing dedication to coordinating the Roundtable series (and feeding us all so well) and for her teaching of our core course "Women and Gender in Society."

We lost a valuable member of the WGST community this year with the passing of Vicki Eaklor. I first met Vicki when I took the "Women in Society" class from her for my own minor in Women's Studies. She was a role model for me ever since, not only in the realm of women's issues, but in her many roles of teacher, fellow colleague, advocate for LGBT rights and so much more. I will sorely miss her but she will forever be in my heart and memories; at times I know I'll find myself asking "What would Vicki think or do or say?" as she'll continue in my mind as the strong, kind, dedicated and educated women that I aspire to be.

Please welcome Luanne Crosby as the program's next director. I know we'll all be there to support her as we continue our vigilance in sustaining and representing the ideals of the WGST Program, keeping Abigail Allen in mind as we chant "Be Radical, Radical to the Core!"

With warm wishes and my best to you all,
Laurie Lounsberry McFadden, AU'91



Patricia Debertolis

Patricia Debertolis, Associate Dean of Students, has been selected as the recipient of the 2018 Faculty/Staff Abigail Allen Award. Patricia has been advocating for and supporting students at Alfred University since 1996. As noted in her nomination for this award, she has “worked tirelessly for so many years to advance the learning and leadership of women students and women in the community, as well as cultivating leaders of all gender identities.” Patricia’s dedication to bettering the lives of others makes her stand out even though much of what she does is done quietly and “under the radar.” In addition to a plethora of other job responsibilities, Patricia is a primary Title IX investigator for the University, a trusted and respected Safe Zone trainer, an advocate for the LGBTQ+ population, a mentor for students on Student Senate, a co-founder of the Allegany-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Fund for Women and an overall positive role model for students. Her advocacy and support for women in particular makes her an excellent fit for this award. Through all of her activities, Patricia has reflected the ideals of the Abigail Allen Award by “improving the quality of women’s lives on our campus.”

Recipients of the

ABIGAIL ALLEN

Award 2018

Summer Markajani

Congratulations to Summer Markajani for being selected as the 2018 student recipient of the Abigail Allen Award! Multiple faculty nominated Summer for this award, illustrating just how much her work and impact have been noticed, particularly her tireless education efforts on the difficult subject of sexual assault and her initiative in co-leading the “Soulful Sitdowns” conversation series. One of the faculty said “I nominate Summer for this award because I know she will continue to work to support women, their rights and their safety as long as she has the strength to do so... She has shown leadership in the Psychology club, she’s part of the SAVE Committee (Sexual Assault Violence Education) on campus, and has done a lot of special work as a Peer Wellness Educator. She’s a passionate advocate for preventing sexual assault and violence, and she’s done a lot of amazing work while keeping the high standards of her classwork intact. I think she’s a fantastic choice for the award.” Another faculty commented that “she’s always one of my top students, but her additional work sets her apart.” Summer’s presentation on sexual assault at the Women’s and Gender Studies Roundtable made a strong impression on all who attended, making it clear that she is committed to making a difference as evidenced by her current internship with Planned Parenthood.



Class of 2018

WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Graduates



Genevieve Cromwell

Genevieve majors in Interdisciplinary Art and Sociology, and is from Rochester, NY. Looking ahead, she hopes to land an artist residency, especially in the Western US or Canada. She is interested in the accessibility of art, body & performance, renewable materials, archiving, cataloging, social justice, and Queer Theory. Her capstone project for the Women's and Gender Studies minor is about the applications of Queer Theory in American primary school, as methods to ease tension around the crucial formation of identity in that institution.

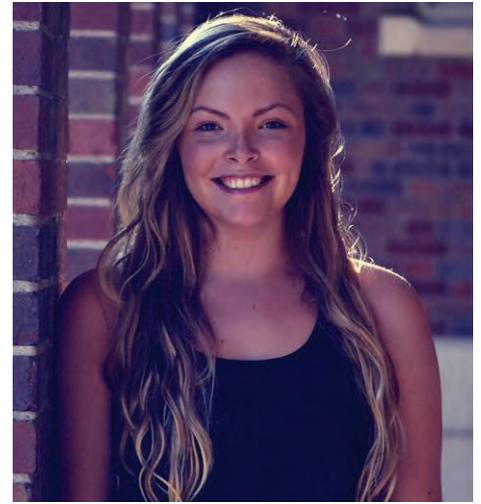
Logan Gee Logan is a double major in English and Communication Studies and has a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. She grew up in Dansville, NY and plans on taking a break before continuing onto graduate school. She combined her English honors thesis, her university honors thesis, and Women's and Gender Studies capstone project into one project that focuses on the New Woman of the *fin de siècle* in Victorian England. The outcome of her project is a published anthology called *Crossing the Line: The New Woman of the Fin de Siècle* which contains essays, plays, and short stories by notable writers of the time. The anthology is available for purchase on Amazon. She is also one of two Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors for the class of 2018.



Liz Lingenfelter Elizabeth grew up in Wellsville, NY and is a Psychology major with a focus in Experimental and Clinical Counseling Psychology and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. She is enrolled in Alfred University's School Psychology PsyD program this fall and plans to pursue a mental health position in either a school or hospital setting after obtaining her doctoral degree. She loves doing research and is so glad that she was able to bring her inner passion for Industrial Organizational Psychology and gender issues to life in her senior capstone project. Elizabeth is studying the purchasing effects of gender and gender expression of the seller in relation to the gender and gender expression of the consumer.

Class of 2018 WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES Graduates

Summer Markajani Summer is a Clinical Psychology major with two minors in Writing and Women's and Gender Studies. She has thoroughly enjoyed being one of the two facilitators for the Soulful Sit-downs, a unique platform for promoting meaningful conversations with students. She is also the Social Media Representative of the Psychology Club and part of the Sexual Assault Violence Education (SAVE) Committee. Through SAVE, she is chair of the Undergraduate Student sub-committee, as well as a member of the New Student sub-committee. She has also had the opportunity to be trained as a Peer Educator and a Sexual Assault Prevention Peer Educator, which enables her to address issues through her overall role as a Wellness Representative. Lastly, she is employed at both Scholes and Herrick Libraries. With a sense of fresh passion and motivation for learning and cultivating change throughout her community, she strives to continue her legacy as she moves forward with her life beyond Alfred University.



Hanna Rinn Hanna is a Psychology major with a concentration in Clinical/Counseling psychology from Queensbury, NY. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her friends, reading, and watching Netflix and being outdoors when the sun is out. After graduation, Hanna plans on taking a year off to become more financially stable, so that she can attend graduate school for a masters in Mental Health Counseling. Her capstone project is something that she has wanted to research for the last two years but could not find enough literature to begin a study. Within the last two years plenty of research has come out about how video games affect the body-image of those who play video games. Her capstone will contribute to furthering research on the relationship of self-image or self-esteem and video games.

Aliza Schweitzer Aliza is originally from Mountain View, CA. She majored in Art and Design and works primarily in ceramics. Aliza's BFA Thesis show is doubling as her capstone project for her WGST minor and is titled "Clandestine: Experiencing Conformity, Tactility, and the Body Through Cake and Cups." Aliza has enjoyed singing with Chamber Singers, working as a tour guide, and studying abroad during her time at Alfred. After graduation, Aliza plans to take some time off with her family in California, then move to Philadelphia. She hopes to work in a bakery and continue to work in ceramics.



An Update From

THE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

2017–2018

This year, the Judson Leadership Center proudly welcomed the twelfth cohort of the Women's Leadership Academy. Members of the current cohort include:

Anastasia Campbell (Sophomore, Criminal Justice) Kayla Colter (Sophomore, Psychology)
 Madison Muehl (Junior, Biology) Shannon Ortega (Junior, Psychology)
 Allison Piedmonte (Senior, Art and Design) Mackenzie Slater (Sophomore, Art and Design)
 Amber Smith (Sophomore, Biomaterials Engineering) Emma Wirlo (Senior, Psychology)

This year's cohort was also joined by dedicated WLA intern, Taylor Jaczko (French/Global Studies, 2018), who offered invaluable support throughout the year as students worked diligently to complete their capstone projects. This year's capstones included a diverse assortment of projects ranging from a screen-printing workshop designed to stimulate discussion surrounding ethical consumption and feminism to the creation of a student-run gallery space for activist artists on campus to a STEM mentoring program for area high schools students. Students in this year's cohort participated in an impressive array of activities including intensive "hot topic" discussions, leadership workshops, guest speaker events, exclusive leadership dinners, and a spring field trip to the Susan B. Anthony House. The WLA is currently in the process of recruiting the thirteenth cohort and preparing for their yearly graduation ceremony, to be held on April 30th.

Courses in

WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Fall 2017

WGST 201 *Gender and Leadership* with Abby Griffith

WGST 300 *Femmes et la Justice Sociale* with Dr. Cecilia Beach

WGST 400 *Major Figures: Jane Austen* with Dr. Allen Grove

Allen Term 2017–18

WGST 300 *Gender Equity in Business* with Dr. Diana Maguire

Spring 2018

WGST 101 *Women and Gender in Society* with Dr. Sandra Singer

WGST 465 *Gender, Race, Class and Media*
with Dr. Robyn Goodman

WGST 346 *Sociology of Sex and Gender*
with Dr. Karen Porter

WGST 351 *Human Sexuality*
with Dr. Beth Johnson

WGST 382 *Gender and Art History*
with Dr. Hope Childers

WGST 320 *Parenting Seminar*
with Dr. Lou Lichtman

WGST 254 *Women Writers*
with Professor Susan Morehouse

WGST 475 *Women's Leadership Academy*
with Abby Griffith

WGST 461 *Girl Power in American Literature*
with Dr. Melissa Ryan

Women's & Gender Studies

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

2017-2018

8 SEPTEMBER

"Are You Girls Lost?: A Brief Introduction to Practical Travel Planning for Women Who Wanderlust"

Presented by Abby Griffith, Director of the Judson Leadership Center

Whether you're planning your first solo weekend away or dreaming of a longer trip abroad, join Griffith of some "real talk" about the unique challenges and advantages women encounter when traveling off the beaten path. Griffith will share her experiences with everything from street harassment and salmonella to discussing Diva Cups and Hillary Clinton in the Vietnamese highlands. Come for the discussion of how to travel more ethically, stay for the advice on how to navigate nudity on night trains!

26 JANUARY

"Within Reach = Beyond Me"

Presented by Summer Markajani, an AU student.

Markajani will be speaking about the services available for survivors of sexual assault on and around campus.

29 SEPTEMBER

"Music of the Suffragettes"

Presented by Peggy Lynn

Peggy Lynn, a nationally recognized songwriter and singer, will be presenting on "Music of the Suffragettes," a topic of expertise for Ms. Lynn. The roundtable will be a combination of information and performance.

16 FEBRUARY

"Women in Sports: The Highs and Lows of Inclusivity"

Presented by Shakima M. Clency, Diversity Fellow.

In 2018, female athletes continue to face discrimination, oppression, and misrepresentation on and off the court. Through a brief overview of the history of women's involvement in sports, this presentation will highlight the severity of the challenges faced as well as the various ways that female athletes have triumphed personally and professionally. Come learn about the ways that the Williams sisters, Billie Jean King, Brittney Griner, Pat Summitt, and others continue to challenge cultural and gender norms while dominating in their respective sports.

3 NOVEMBER

"Roller Derby, the Best Self Care"

Presented by Kathy Vile Lisborg

Roller Derby started as showmanship and hair pulling and has turned into an inclusive, gender-busting, feminist, empowering sport for both the skater and non-skater. It is one of two full-contact team sports for women and so far, no one's uterus has fallen out. Around the globe, Roller Derby is one of the fastest growing sports. It's because hitting people (and getting hit) can be fun. Women are (generally) raised to be nice, caring, supportive people. Roller Derby shows you can be all that and hit the stuffing out of your best friend. The presenter, Vile Love It, is a former skater, coach, and PR chairperson for the Queen City Roller Girls.

23 MARCH

LanDforms Dance Partnership

Presented by Leah Crosby and Danielle Doell, LanDforms Dance Partnership.

A performance with the theme of gender.

27 APRIL

Graduating Women's & Gender Studies minors will present their capstone projects.

WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Select Faculty & Staff Profiles



Luanne Crosby Luanne Crosby is Professor of Music at AU and teaches Voice, a variety of music classes, including “Women in Music” and directs the AU choirs. She is very excited to be elected as the new director of WGST beginning next Fall.

Luanne has always held a keen interest in music composed by women and has performed numerous recitals featuring the works of Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel and Amy Beach, just to name a few. In 2014 she created the AU Women’s Choir which performed a concert of works by women. Most recently Luanne spent part of her sabbatical teaching in Wuhan, China at the China University of Geosciences. The AU Chamber Singers just had the honor of performing for Chinese New Year at the Chinese Consulate in New York City.

About 2 years ago, alopecia, a somewhat rare condition, caused Luanne to lose all of her hair. She is a proud member of The Baldie Movement, an organization that supports women and children who suffer hair loss either from chemotherapy or alopecia, or women who simply choose to shave their heads. The name stands for Beauty And Love Demonstrated In Everything and their motto is “Hair does not define me.”

Erin Redmond Erin Redmond is an Associate Professor of Spanish. Dr. Erin Redmond’s research and teaching focus on questions of gender and sexuality in Latin American literature and film. The Women’s and Gender Studies courses she has taught at AU include “Violence, Memory, & Trauma in Latin American Women’s Literature,” “Framing Gender: Latin American Film,” and “Cuba Close Up: Film since the Revolution.” Dr. Redmond’s publications include articles on gender in the fiction of Manuel Puig, the Argentine author best-known for the novel *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and on the themes of childhood sexual abuse and feminine aging in fiction by the Brazilian writer Sonia Coutinho. She recently completed an article on the theme of migration in Cuban film and will present a paper on this topic at the Latin American Studies Association congress in Barcelona in May. Dr. Redmond serves on the Women’s and Gender Studies Executive Committee.

Alix Clare Alix Clare, Professor of Glass Science teaches Engineering from First Years up to Graduate level. Her interests are mainly how one can adapt glass compositions and melting strategies to get them to behave the way you need them to in various applications. She is also interested in knowing what the glasses look like at the atomic level and has been known to fire neutrons at them to achieve that goal!



Robert Reginio

English Professor Robert Reginio will have an essay on teaching modernist women’s poetry (based on his AU course on modernist women writers) published in the essay collection “Teaching Modernist Women Writers” from The Modern Language Association Press. He will also be teaching a seminar on Virginia Woolf in the fall that will be part of the WGST offerings.



Robyn Goodman Robyn Goodman, Professor of Communication Studies, is happy to announce the April 14 publication of the Spanish translation of her international journalism education book, *Global Journalism Education in the 21st Century: Challenges and Innovations*. Her next book, a Routledge text titled *Critical Perspectives on Journalistic Beliefs and Actions: Global Experiences*, co-authored with Pulitzer Prize winner Eric Freedman and Elanie Steyn (also co-editor for Global Journalism Education) is scheduled for publication this May. When she's not conducting research, she is especially passionate about teaching her students media literacy -- how to spot, analyze and fight media bias, especially against women and minorities; how to uncover "fake news" and how to locate solid information that helps improve societies and make them more just.

Cecilia Beach Cecilia Beach, Professor of French, attended the Yoga Service Conference in May 2017 at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, NY and the National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE) from May 30 - June 3, 2017 in Fort Worth, Texas. Over the past year, Cecilia published four articles on works by André Léo in the online Literary Encyclopedia (www.litencyc.com) and developed a new upper-level French course on Women and Social Justice in the French-speaking World. She was reelected to a second term as President of Women in French, an international organization that promotes study of French and Francophone women authors and French feminist literary criticism. She attended the biennial Women in French conference in Tallahassee, Florida in February 2018. In addition to her on-going community yoga classes in Alfred, Cecilia taught yoga at the Allegany County jail over the summer and started a new gentle yoga class in Hornell for survivors of breast and gynecological cancer sponsored by the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester.



Juliana Gray

English Professor Juliana Gray published her third poetry collection, *Honeymoon Palsy*, in 2017. She's also excited about a big change coming next fall, when she will become the new director of the Alfred University Honors Program.

WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Executive Board

Hope Childers
Robyn Goodman
Susan Mayberry
Becky Prophet

Erin Redmond
Robert Reginio
Sandra Singer

Abby Griffith *ex officio*, Judson/Women's Leadership Center
Amy Jacobson *ex officio*, University Relations
Laurie McFadden *ex officio*, University Archives

100 YEARS

July 19th, 1848: The first women's rights convention, the Seneca Falls Convention, was held in New York. 100 men and women signed the Declaration of Sentiments.

November 1869: The American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) was formed. Its founders, who supported the Fifteenth Amendment, included Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, and Julia Ward Howe.

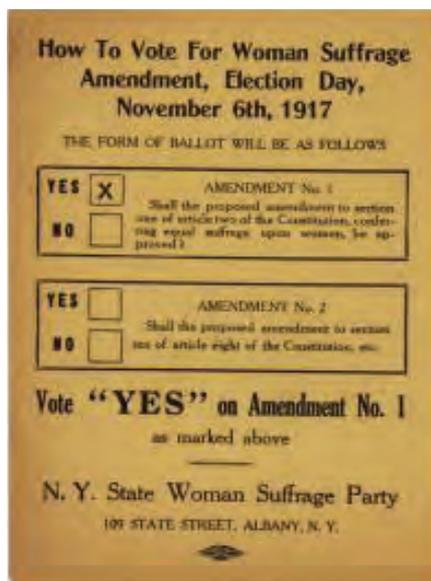
Boston, MA 1903: The National Women's Trade Union League (NWTUL) was an organization established to support women in their attempts to organize labor unions and eliminate sweatshops

May 15th, 1869: The National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) was founded. The first president of the organization was Susan B. Anthony.

February 1890: The NWSA and the AWSA merge to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

April 1913: Alice Paul and Lucy Burns establish the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage (known as the National Woman's Party) to fight for women's suffrage.

November 6th, 1917: Women win the right to vote in New York State



VOTE

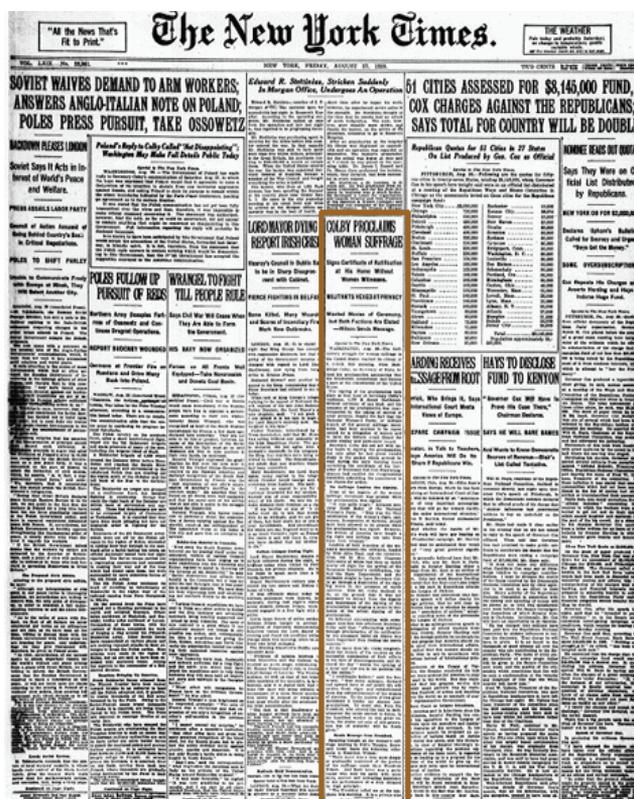
WITH THE



Alice Paul sews a star onto the NWP Ratification Flag, representing another state's ratification of the 19th Amendment. *Library Of Congress.*



Women voters cast ballots in 57th Street and Lexington Ave, in 1917. *Library of Congress. The New York Times.*

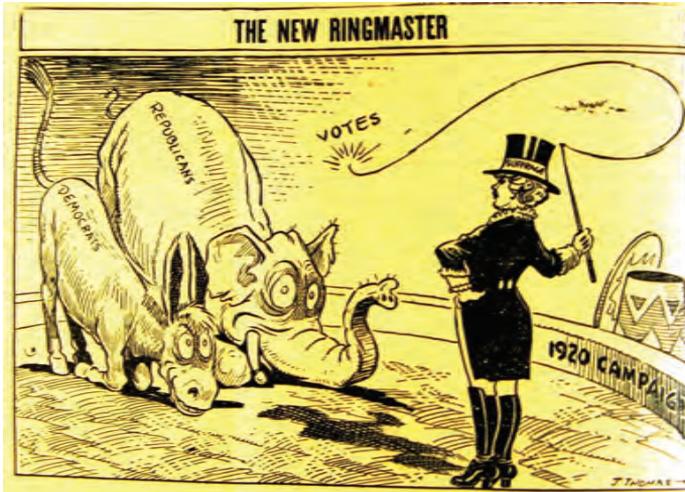


Front page of the New York Times on August 26, 1920 announcing the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Suffrage in Alfred NY

CONTENT FROM THE ALFRED SUN

1915-1920



VILLAGE ELECTION

Seventy-nine votes were cast at the Village election, yesterday. Of this number forty-five were cast by the women, and thirty-four by the men. The result of the election was as follows:

P. E. Titsworth, President—73
 F. A. Shaw, Trustee—74
 Geo. Jacox, Trustee—73
 E. P. Saunders, Treasurer—70
 E. P. Saunders, Collector—69
 Proposition No. 1: Yes, 34; No, 12
 Proposition No. 2: Yes, 32; No, 10

It is apparent that five voters failed to approve the action of the caucus, seventy-four votes being the highest number for any candidate. It also appears that of the fifty-five who were entitled to vote on the propositions, nine failed to do so. A study and comparison of the above figures will reveal other interesting facts.

The women are to be congratulated upon the interest they have shown at this election.



Alfred University students in the Brick proudly displaying their "Votes for Women" pennant.

WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Outside the Classroom



A few days before the Women's March on NYC, I spontaneously clicked the "Interested" button on the Facebook event. A few minutes later, an Alfred University colleague offered a ride to NYC and a friend in Brooklyn offered a couch to sleep on. I made a snap decision to go. Saturday morning, the day of the march, there was a festive atmosphere on the subway, and more conversation than usual among strangers. Arriving at Columbus Circle, the first challenge was getting out of the subway station. I don't particularly like crowds and we moved like sardines from the platform, through the turnstiles, and up the stairway and onto the street. From there, we slowly made our way north to meet some friends. We entered the march via 74th Street and spent about an hour and a half traveling a single block. Despite the lack of movement, time passed quickly while chatting with friends, joining in on chants, and watching people. At one point, a pizza delivery person came through the crowd, working under what must have been the worst possible conditions for a food delivery person in NYC (I hope he got a good tip!). When we rounded the corner to Central Park West, things began to move and we were able to actually march as opposed to nearly standing still. In the end, we didn't cover much territory in terms of city blocks, but I was glad to have made a small contribution to bringing attention to the rights of women and girls.



Photos Provided by Ellen Bahr

From **Ellen Bahr**, *Systems Librarian, Herrick Library*



Students in the WGST Program and the Women's Leadership Academy visited the Susan B. Anthony House in Rochester on March 24th in recognition of Women's History Month.

Amber Smith (Left) and Hanna Rinn pose with Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass.

A Visit From

KRISTIN BECK

March 22, 2018



Kristin Beck visits with Wayne Higby, director of the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum.

Kristin Beck has grappled her entire life with who she is. Born male but identifying as a female, she spent most of her 51 years struggling against others' expectations of how she should live.

"We are forced into labels, into bubbles, instead of taking the entire you and living the whole you. I've been struggling with that my whole life," she said during her lecture at Alfred University.

Beck, a 1989 Alfred graduate, was on campus to give a talk titled "Warrior Princess: A Lecture by Kristin Beck." The lecture was offered as part of Queering Space collective, an art exhibition that examined where queerness meets form, which opened February 2 and ran through March 28.

She spoke about her journey from growing up as Christopher Beck in small-town America, serving with distinction for two decades in the U.S. Navy, and finally coming out as transgender three years shy of her 50th birthday. Growing up in Western

Pennsylvania and New York, Beck said she struggled with gender identity at a young age. It was a struggle that continued through adolescence and into adulthood.

"I had to crush everything down and put it away," she said. "I knew who I was and knew there was a problem. I looked at myself and was confused. I was afraid to connect with people so I isolated myself."

Beck said that made her a target for bullies, so she learned to fight back. If she saw others being bullied, she fought to stick up for them as well. She said that desire to defend others is a reason she eventually joined the military.

After graduating from Wellsville (NY) High School in 1984, Beck attended Virginia Military Institute from 1984-87, before enrolling at Alfred University, where she earned a BA degree in political science in 1989.

After college, Beck joined the U.S. Navy and attended SEAL school, graduating at the top of her class. She would serve 20 years with the SEALs, taking part in 13 deployments, including stints in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. She was a member of the United States Naval Special Warfare Development Group, a special counter-terrorism unit popularly called SEAL Team Six, and received multiple military awards and decorations, including a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Beck retired from the Navy in 2011 and began transitioning to a woman that year. In she 2013, publicly came out as a transgender.

Looking back on her service, Beck thought of the differences – between American soldiers and the foreigners they would encounter in battle – and realized they were minor, based mostly on appearance. "I saw people that looked different than me. Can you imagine walking down the street in America and seeing anyone that different? Yet that's what causes all this hate among us, these minor differences."

Those differences are what she struggles with as a transgender. She recalled a 2011 incident in Tampa, FL, when she was walking down the street, dressed in women's clothing, and was assaulted by a group of four men. "That happens every week in America: someone like me getting beaten or killed. That's what we need to stop. What we never do when we walk down the street is look out for the other human being. We just look for the differences," she said.

Beck said as a transgender woman, she doesn't want to be treated any differently than others; she just wants to be treated fairly. It's a sentiment she tries to convey when she speaks to representatives in government, advocating for transgender rights.

“I go before Congress and tell people, you hear the words – transgender, gay, lesbian – those aren’t just words; they’re human beings. It’s not something that goes away. It’s me and I’m not going to change. I don’t want extra money and I don’t want my job to be easier; I just want to be treated like a human being.”

Beck has been an outspoken critic of President Trump’s decision to ban transgender people from openly serving in the military. She’s confident that the policy will change, as will other policies that discriminate.

“The truth is the truth and it’s never going to go away,” she said. “The truth will win out. The progress of humanity – being better to each other – will win out.”

Beck offered some advice to people who may be dealing with struggles similar to her own. First, she said, people should make an effort to treat others with kindness, the way they’d wish to be treated.

“On a daily basis, it may be something as simple as a smile, a handshake, or giving a compliment. It could save someone’s life. You can do this almost every single day,” she said. “That’s all I ask: be good to each other.”

She also said that people struggling to make the decision to come out, should look at themselves not at being confined to a closet, but rather as living in a “great room” filled with people and things that give them comfort.

“Invite your friends and family in; create a support system. Before you know it, those walls will be gone,” she said. “It’s hard sometimes. The highs are high and the lows are low. My support system evens it all out.”

The father of two sons from a previous marriage, Beck has remarried and lives on a 53-acre farm with her wife. Of her life she says, “It’s been a wild journey: lots of ups and downs and a lot of struggles. It took me a long time to get here and be at peace with myself.” *From Alfred University Office of Communications*

Women’s & Gender Studies

23rd Annual Riley Lecture

April 26, 2018



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

Roberta J. Cordano became the 11th president of Gallaudet University on January 1, 2016. During the announcement of her selection as president, Cordano was recognized as a “transformational leader who is the right person at the right time for Gallaudet.” Cordano held several leadership roles in the health care industry. In these roles, she led initiatives focusing on organizational change, innovation, community-based health initiatives, patient education, and research. Cordano is a founding member of Metro Deaf School, a pre-k through eighth grade, bilingual-bicultural charter school for deaf and hard of hearing children in St. Paul, and a founding board member of Minnesota North Star Academy, a bilingual-bicultural charter

high school for deaf and hard of hearing students. Cordano, who is deaf, is fluent in American Sign Language and English. Her parents are both Gallaudet alumni. Three generations of family have attended or are attending Gallaudet.

Remembering VICKI EAKLOR



Vicki Eaklor, who taught history at Alfred University for more than three decades before retiring two years ago, passed away Thursday, March 8, 2018. She was 63.

Vicki was a well-known professor who received numerous honors and awards during her tenure at Alfred University. She was the recipient of the Abigail Allen Award in 2004 and in both 1998 and 2005 received Excellence in Teaching Awards from the University. “Time and again, when I talk to Alfred University alumni, I hear about professors who mentored and guided them,” said Alfred University President Mark Zupan. “As a professor of American history; as a drummer and teacher of percussion; as a leader in our Women’s Studies program, Vicki Eaklor had that kind of profound impact on our students for more than 30 years.”

Added Beth Ann Dobie, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Alfred University: “Dr. Eaklor was a superb teacher. She had high expectations and her students loved her. Often one would see a flock of students talking with Vicki in the halls of Kanakadea.”

Vicki was born Nov. 24, 1954, the daughter of Warren and Josei Eaklor, and grew up in Grand Junction, CO. She had a passion for both history and music and would go on to earn BA degrees in history and music education from Adams State College (Colorado) in 1976. She earned MA degrees in musicology (1979) and American Intellectual/Cultural History (1980) from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She also earned her Ph.D. from Washington University, in 1982.

She was appointed professor of history at Alfred University in 1984 and taught at AU for 32 years, until her retirement in 2016. She also taught the course, Women in Society, and created the first-ever history courses at AU in Queer America and Queer Hollywood.

Vicki’s academic accomplishments also include dozens of published articles on music, history and gender issues. A published author, she wrote the books “Queer America: A GLBT History of the 20th Century” and “American Anti-Slavery Songs: A Collection & Analysis.” She also edited the book “Bringing Lesbian & Gay Rights Into the Mainstream,” by Steve Endean.

“Vicki Eaklor was a faculty leader, always stepping up for what she believed was right and fair even when it was difficult to do so. She was a mentor and a role model for many of us, especially the female faculty,” said Dobie. “Vicki was a passionate advocate for social justice. She was a pioneer in Women and Gender Studies at AU, and provided a faculty voice and vital support for lesbian and gay students.”

A talented percussionist, Vicki’s performances on the drums – with AU’s concert band, its orchestra, and in smaller musical ensembles -- were nothing short of spectacular, and she often gave private percussion lessons to Alfred University students.

She is survived by her partner, whom she was with for 29 years.

From Alfred University Office of Communications



Vicki Eaklor as a new professor (1986).



Hillary Clinton poses with Sharon Hoover and Vicki Eaklor during a visit to Alfred in 2000.



Vicki Eaklor: Professor, Colleague and Friend.

From **WGST 101 Women and Gender in Society**

“The day may soon be approaching when the whole world will recognize woman as the **equal** of man.”

~ Susan B. Anthony



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

Laurie McFadden
Director, WGST Program
Herrick Library
Alfred University
1 Saxon Drive
Alfred, NY 14802