

Alfred University names Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award recipients

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Beryl Torthe (left) and Logan Gee, 2018 Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors

ALFRED, NY -- Alfred University seniors Beryl Torthe and Logan Gee have been named recipients of the 2018 Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award. Torthe and Gee will be honored at Alfred University's commencement ceremony on May 12 and will address the graduating class, faculty, administration, trustees, and guests.

"Logan and Beryl are great selections for our 2018 Marlin Miller Outstanding Seniors, out of a highly competitive field of candidates," said Kathy Woughter, vice president of Student Affairs. "Both students have given so much to Alfred University through their talents, time, positive attitudes, and willingness to support their fellow students, all while maintaining excellent GPAs. We are so proud to claim them as AU Saxons."

Torthe, from Pretoria, South Africa, is a psychology major (clinical focus) who is a candidate for Psychology Department honors and designation as an Alfred University Scholar. A former business major, she has been named to the Dean's List each semester of her undergraduate career at Alfred. She is the daughter of Catherine Bourely and the late Jean-Yves Torthe.

She is a member of several academic honor societies, including Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, Psi Chi, Pi Gamma Nu and Chi Alpha Sigma. An accomplished writer, Torthe won the Gertz Award for Excellence in Academic Writing in 2015.

"Beryl has been a model student – first in the business school and then as a psychology major in liberal arts and sciences," Gordon Atlas, professor of psychology, said in nominating Torthe for the Marlin Miller Award. "She is a terrific contributor in class, always prepared, asking excellent questions and demonstrating an openness and worldliness that is rare in undergraduate students."

Torthe has been active in a wide and varied number of groups and activities during her time at Alfred. She has been a member of the women's tennis team at Alfred, serving as team captain and twice being named to the Empire 8 Athletic Conference President's List for academic excellence; she has been a teaching assistant and tutor; and has served as a resident assistant and as a student tour guide for the Office of Admissions.

She has been supportive to the University through her generosity and service. She is a founding member of the Student Saxon Circle and a Saxon Nation donor; and has served as student representative to the Board of Trustees University Relations Committee and the Alfred University Peer Review Board, University Conduct Board and Bias Response Team.

"Beryl Torthe is the epitome of a well-rounded individual," Emma Wirlo, Torthe's classmate, said in nominating her

for the Marlin Miller Award. “She excels at everything she does and is often recognized by her peers as the most hard-working student in our department, if not Alfred. I am honored to nominate Beryl Torthé for the Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award because in my opinion, there is no one that deserves this award more.”

Torthé is active in community service as well, receiving a nomination for the Village of Alfred’s Spirit of Service Award. She is trained as a New York State-certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and volunteers for the A.E. Crandall Hook and Ladder Company in Alfred, where she is on-call 30 hours per week; and is a volunteer mentor for Hornell Area Concern for Youth.

In their nominations, Danielle Gagne, associate professor of psychology, and Mark Lewis, professor and interim director of the Alfred University School of Business, cited Torthé’s overcoming adversity. Torthé took a semester off during her sophomore year after her father’s unexpected death. She would ultimately spend a summer studying at Columbia University in order to graduate from Alfred on time.

Danielle Gagne, associate professor of psychology, pointed to the work Torthé put in after returning to Alfred, at which time she made the decision to switch majors from business to psychology.

“Beryl was halfway through her four-year program and we discussed the amount of coursework in which she would need to engage to complete a timely graduation,” Gagne commented. “She rose to the occasion, taking summer courses, winter courses and exceeding the maximum course load during each of the last four semesters.”

“There is not enough space to tell all the reasons Beryl is highly deserving of this award,” Lewis commented.

Gee is a resident of Nunda, NY, majoring in communication studies and English. The daughter of Leon and Cheryl Gee, she is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, honor society for Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Sigma Tau Delta, international English honor society.

A member of the Alfred University Honors Program, Gee is active as a writer, receiving the Gifford Hopkins Writing Prize in 2017. The editor-in-chief of the Fiat Lux student newspaper since 2016, she is a past recipient of the Sharon Hoover Fiat Lux Fund Award, given each year to a student who has shown to be involved in activities that enrich, promote, and sustain the vision of the independent, student-run newspaper.

“Logan is an exceptional student and a member of the Honors Program at Alfred University,” Amanda Baker, director of the Career Development Center, commented in nominating Gee for the Marlin Miller Award. Gee serves as brand management and recruiting intern at the Career Development Center. “She balances her work in the CDC with being editor of the Fiat Lux and a full course load, while also maintaining a high GPA. She is always willing to go above and beyond her job description as a student intern.”

April Heckman, office manager at the Career Development Center, added, “Logan’s involvement on campus amazes me. She contributes a lot to Alfred University’s community with her ability to be part of student life in several different ways.”

Gee has been involved in a number of activities during her years at Alfred University. She has served as box office manager for the Division of Performing Arts and was assistant to the Director of the MostArts Festival during the summers of 2015 and 2016. In addition to her work with the Fiat Lux, she was layout and design editor for the *Alphadelphian*, the annual newsletter of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at Alfred University; and is a past editor of the Honors Program newsletter.

“For the past four years, Logan has poured her time, energy and mental health into the Fiat Lux,” student Noah Mitchell in nominating Gee for the Marlin Miller Award. “I’m confident in saying that if it wasn’t for her, there would be no newspaper on campus. She’s been responsible for keeping it alive during her attendance at Alfred.”

Mitchell continued, “Logan is the student you want on your admission pamphlets. She is the perfect representative for

Alfred. I can't think of anyone more passionate and motivated. Above all else, she is kind, supportive and humble. She is always willing to help her fellow students."

Gee has been active in her service to the University. She has served as a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences panelist for open houses for prospective and accepted students; a fall orientation guide; a peer leader for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; a student representative on the search committee for the Director of Student Activities (2017); and is past vice president of the Student Senate at Alfred University. Since 2017, she has served as vice president of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society.

"Academically, Logan is first rate," said Melissa Ryan, professor of English. "Her contributions to campus life are such that it's hard to imagine what AU will be like without her. Logan is an ideal mentor to new first-year students, compassionate and supportive while modeling for students what academic success looks like."

"Logan is the student you wish you had 10 of," said Valerie Daciw, employer relations coordinator for the Career Development Center. "She is active on campus, academically sound, but also is well-rounded, gracious and well-liked by her peers as well as faculty and staff. She represents everything that Alfred is."

Winners of the Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award are chosen on the basis of scholarship, extracurricular achievement, personal character and conduct and nominated by faculty, students and staff. The award was established to honor Alfred University alumnus Marlin Miller '54, one of Alfred University's most generous supporters. Miller has been a member of Alfred University's Board of Trustees since 1972.