

## BAD GIRLS: SUGAR AND SPICE, BUT NOT SO NICE

BY LEAH HOUK & LAURA REYOME



Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind delivered this year's Riley Lecture in Women's Studies

Have America's little girls gone from sugar and spice to something "not so nice," as one magazine cover claims? Are they more violent now than they have been in the past? Or is something else going on? These were the questions posed by Professor of Criminology and Women's Studies Meda Chesney-Lind, who delivered the fifteenth annual Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley and Charles P. Riley Lecture in Women's Studies on March 22, entitled "Girls Going Wild: Facts and Myths about Girls and Violence." Chesney-Lind teaches at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and is an

expert on girls and violence as well as the author of seven books related to that topic. She argues that these beliefs about girls and violence stem from a media frenzy, as well as changes in the way we police violence, particularly in school environments.

Beginning in the 90's, the media began covering violent girls with increasing ferocity. "There were all these images of menacing girls peering over their guns," Chesney-Lind said, "but everything about these images is wrong."

She pointed out that girls, even girls involved in gangs or drug-related activity, though they often carry knives, rarely carry guns. In addition, the images of girls wielding guns were more often young women of Black and Latina descent. Chesney-Lind's research suggests that the media has constructed a threatening image that plays off of pre-existing racist and sexist stereotypes.

While the images of the gang members from minority races are still very much in circulation, a more recent image of violent girls that has captivated national attention has been the "mean girl." Chesney-Lind showed the cover of *Time* magazine depicting a terrified girl with pins stuck into her, clutched like a voodoo doll in another girl's fist. "Notice that the 'mean' girl's victim is white," Chesney-Lind pointed out.

Chesney-Lind reminded the audience of other well known, sensationalized cases in which girls committed acts of violence. She mentioned notorious Youtube videos of girls attacking other girls; an example of one such video is one of two cheerleaders

caught in a "catfight." A flurry of recently published books has also "begun stoking the fire that girls are getting meaner and more violent," Chesney-Lind said.

Although the evidence of violence is increasing, this does not necessarily mean that girls are actually becoming more violent, according to Chesney-Lind. One of the causes of these rising rates of violence is what she referred to as the increased "policing of girlhood" that is happening in our country.

"Marilyn Monroe had a drug problem, and she wasn't alone," Chesney-Lind said. "The difference is that Paris and Britney go to jail."

The number of young women arrested has risen dramatically in recent years, but Chesney-Lind said that the increase is due in large part to the increasing arrest of girls for non-traditional crimes, such as assault. The increase in arrests of young women for assault "is off the charts," Chesney-Lind said. "However, simply put, if the answer is that girls are getting more violent, somebody's going to get dead." Nevertheless, murder arrests for young women in recent years have decreased, and other arrests, like robbery, "are up and down," Chesney-Lind said.

After the shootings at Columbine High School, police presence on campuses increased, which provides "different eyes on the same events" and leads to arrests for

*Continued on page 5...*

## Ladies First

BY LYNDSEY MORRIS

It is well known that Alfred was founded as a coeducational school, one of the first in the nation, and the first in New York State. For myself, at least, this has always been an interesting fact to rattle off to relatives or those who aren't familiar with the school—a fact that definitely makes Alfred sound like the respectable institution it is, but has never meant much to me beyond that. When one of my fellow *Alphadelphian* members suggested that someone write on the early women's lyceums, I saw more than just a chance to spend quality time in the archives; I saw an opportunity to understand the power that women held on this campus from the very

beginning. This power has suddenly become more important to me than ever before.

Along with nine other staff members, I am about to graduate, and enter a world that is still nowhere near equal. I will enter a room and my opinion will be taken less seriously than those around me, simply because of my gender. That said, what could be more inspiring than reading about women who believed in their opinions even when they were not recognized outside their academic environment?

There were two groups, Athenaeans and Alfredians, which split out of the original Ladies' Literary Society. By 1860, 88% of female undergraduates at Alfred belonged to



Athenaeon Members in 1887, from the Herrick Memorial Library Archives.

one of these societies. Both provided a forum for women on campus to read other people's work as well as their own.

*Continued on page 9...*



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## IN THIS ISSUE...

### Pop Culture

GAGA: Oo LA LA ..... pg 3  
Women In The Media ..... pg 4-5  
What Is Good Hair ..... pg 9  
True Beauty In America's Youth ..... pg 17

### Current Events

International News ..... pg 18  
We Know Women Need Health Reform,  
So Why All the Fighting? ..... pg 19

### Alfred News

BAD GIRLS: Sugar and Spice,  
But Not So Nice ..... cover  
Ladies First ..... cover  
Senior Spotlights ..... pg 6-7  
Abigail Allen Winners Announced .... pg 8  
A Conversation With Alumna  
Christa Christakis ..... pg 8  
Dean Queens ..... pg 11  
Faculty Profiles ..... pg 12-15  
Inspiration In Flight: Lise Lemeland pg 16

### Feminism in Practice

How-To: Negotiate Salary ..... pg 4  
Feminist Mother: It Shouldn't  
Be A Contradiction ..... pg 10

## A Message from the Director of WMST

Last year I set three goals for myself in the Women's Studies program: to build community, to promote intellectual rigor, and to achieve greater visibility. Upon evaluating my successes and failures in this second year, I am most satisfied with our progress toward visibility. I believe that moving the Riley lecture into Women's History Month and the cooperative planning between Academic and Student Affairs for programming improved visibility. This year our final Women's Studies Roundtable features six minors. All six have planned and are completing fascinating projects with the help of their faculty advisors. While the Roundtable is a warm and wonderful celebration within the Women's Studies community, it does not enhance our institutional presence in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences nor Alfred University in general. Our participation in the Undergraduate Research Forum will. I appreciate the effort the seniors and their advisors made to share their work with all of Alfred University. Thank you.

Participation in the Undergraduate Research Forum also sparked a healthy dialogue about the definition of research in the humanities. This conversation benefits both the remaining Women's Studies students and the seniors who are preparing for graduate school. It helps us define our community in terms of its scholarship. This is the goal to which I

direct my attention in year three: How best to facilitate the growth of the Women's Studies community? Do we exist primarily as an email list of individuals with a shared ideology? What is our connection to other women's services on campus such as the Women's Issues Coalition (WIC)? My challenge is to build upon already successful moments of community that then will continue to attract students and highlight our contributions to Alfred.



Dr. Kerry Kautzman, Director of Women's Studies

# GAGA: Oo LA LA

BY ABIGAIL GRIFFITH

I'm a Lady GaGa fan. There. I said it. Somewhere my brother, a music snob who inherited my love for the likes of Jeff Buckley and The Smiths, is snickering. And yet I, like so many others, am not immune to GaGa's endlessly catchy, often provocative brand of pop. Her songs are on constant repeat at my apartment, and it's no secret that watching her increasingly bizarre videos has helped me procrastinate my way through many an essay. But while there's no denying GaGa's poppy appeal, I was surprised to learn that many admire GaGa not for her music, but for her feminism.

When I first heard people referring to Lady GaGa as a feminist icon, I was a bit skeptical. After all, the performer herself has stated outright that she does not consider herself a feminist. Instead, she says she intends to "celebrate American male culture, and beer, and bars and muscle cars." And yet, upon examining her performances in a more critical light, I began to catch glimpses of the feminist GaGa, hidden just beneath the Kermit-head coats and cigarette-framed sunglasses.

When you search for Lady GaGa on Google, the first option you'll likely encounter is "lady gaga hermaphrodite." This rumor has been attached to the singer for some time now, and its very existence illustrates the transgressive role GaGa has adopted within the world of pop music. No one's asking questions about Taylor Swift's "disco stick" (to use GaGa's own memorable lyric), for instance. The rumors concerning GaGa's hermaphroditic status have often been read as backlash against the singer's utilization of the androgynous aesthetic within her performances. This aesthetic frequently places her in opposition to that which is heteronormative, a position that has endeared her to feminists across the globe.

Lady GaGa's response to this rumor is perhaps the most intriguing aspect of this ever-evolving myth. When the rumor initially permeated the pop music sphere, Lady GaGa refused to deny her status as a hermaphrodite or attest to its truth. She instead seemed rather content to operate within a space of undefined sexuality, which in turn allowed her to embrace a more fluid sexual identity than her singing peers. GaGa further complicated the issue when she agreed to grace the cover of *Q Magazine*. In some ways, she is presented as a typical pin-up princess, posing half nude with carefully coiffed blonde curls. And yet, when one examines the image closer, it becomes apparent that this angelic siren is in fact sporting a strap-on. Instead of denying rumors concerning her masculine qualities, Lady GaGa chose to represent the masculine and the feminine within one body: her own.

In fact, GaGa often pushes these images of the masculine and feminine bodies to disturbing new limits. She frequently alters what have been generally characterized as "feminine qualities" into horrific appendages. Take, for instance, the image of the elegantly manicured female hand. GaGa parodies this image by sporting gloves that feature abnormally long claws. She makes the image "monstrous," or grotesque, in order to challenge society's preconceived notions of feminine beauty. While she clearly takes gleeful pleasure in mocking the unrealistic standards Hollywood has set for women, there is a serious critique to be found beneath the layers of this elaborate game of dress-up. From her spark-shooting bras to her dangerously sharp stilettos, GaGa both ridicules our society's current ideals concerning the feminine body and demonstrates the ways in which women might subvert this system of oppression by utilizing these very same ideals.

However, while GaGa's performances, wardrobe, and make-up do offer a fascinating commentary on both fame and the feminine



LADY GAGA

body, her videos are sometimes simply grimly satisfying in that they generally function as female revenge fantasies. While her earlier videos show GaGa playfully pushing her male counterparts about the dance floor, her later videos have taken a considerably darker turn. In "Paparazzi," GaGa's character poisons her traitorous lover, a murder that is ultimately justified by the context in which it is placed. She takes this act of revenge even further in her video for "Bad Romance," in which she utilizes society's image of the ideal woman to seduce and destroy a man who views her as little more than an object to be bartered and sold. And in her latest video, "Telephone," two women team up to carry out their own act of revenge against Beyonce's former lover.

It's clear that Lady GaGa is a subject worth addressing from a feminist angle. She challenges preconceived notions of gender and sexuality in the most public of spheres: the world of popular entertainment. Her performances offer up complex critiques of modern gender roles, all the while also giving her female audience brute but satisfying images of female revenge.

Does that mean that all feminists should embrace Lady GaGa's feminism as their own? Of course not. But whether one finds GaGa feminist or not, she has triggered a truly staggering amount of discussion concerning the role of gender in our modern society. I may not always agree with Lady GaGa's viewpoints; I'm not even sure I'd venture so far as to call her a feminist. But she's getting people from all walks of life to talk about feminism and gender in a refreshingly honest fashion. And that can never be a bad thing. ●

Sources: <http://bitchmagazine.org>



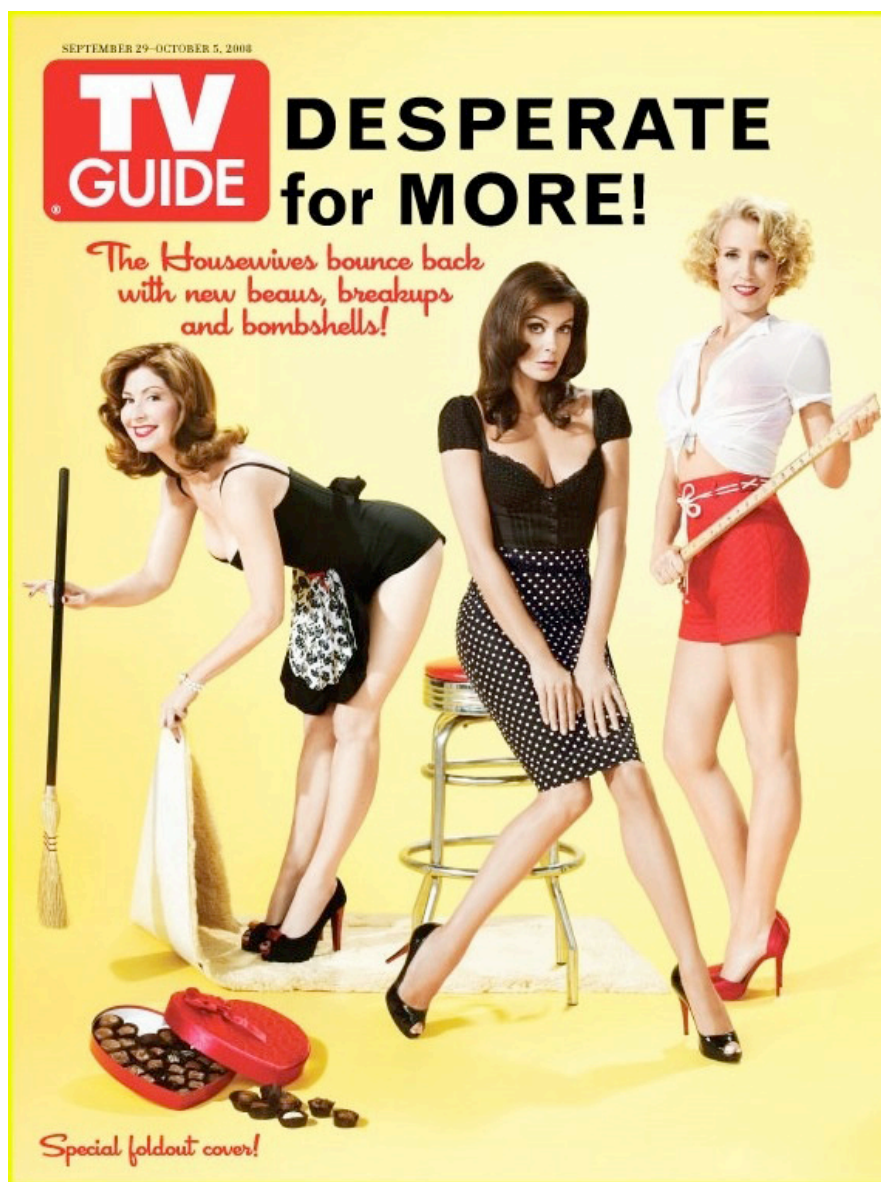
# Women In The Media

BY GOODLUCK ANASO

Over the past couple of years, the images of women in media have been getting worse. From pictures of unrealistically skinny models in magazines to half-naked women dancing in music videos, women are often portrayed as sex symbols. On sitcoms and TV shows, women can be seen playing the roles of housewives, dependent women, and young naïve girls in search of a good man. There are so many successful, hard-working, dedicated, and honorable women in all parts of the world today, yet very few of them appear on television or the media in general. Who will the youth of today look up to?

Teenage girls spend the majority of their time adoring and idolizing these false images, and these images brainwash them. It has a great influence on their self-esteem. Although parents play a significant role in the lives of these young adults, they are not and cannot be present 100% in their children's lives. They cannot shelter their children from the sorts of things that appear on the internet, TV, magazines, etc. In an article entitled "Breaking the Model," Graciela Rodriguez shares her experiences while growing up. As a young girl aspiring to become an actress/model, she was told to "lose the weight or get lost" at the tender age of thirteen. This led Rodriguez to engage in strict dieting and excessive exercise. She suffered from anorexia and bulimia and it took her about a year to recover and get back on her feet.

This generation needs better role models to look up to. They need to see realistic women who are using their brains and living healthy lifestyles. Women have just as much potential to be successful as anyone else and they should be portrayed as such. There are no where near as many successful women on the big screen as there as men. Women being depicted negatively in media fundamentally supports a patriarchal system in this society. It affects the evolution of women mentally, and socially. Today, many women think they need to have long hair, nice



## HOW-TO: NEGOTIATE SALARY

BY KATE SIMONDS

A study done by Dr. Linda Babcock, Professor of Economics at Carnegie Mellon University, and Sarah Laschever, a widely published writer, who co-authored *Women Don't Ask*, found that eight times as many men negotiate. Even when negotiating was encouraged, 30% more men than women did it. Moral of the story: always ask!

With this information, I sought out the expert advice of Dr. Julia Overton-Healy, Director of the Women's Leadership Center, and these are some of her helpful tips to follow while in the process of negotiating:

### 1. Go into a negotiation knowing your worth and defend it clearly and assertively.

This one can be hard for women because they tend to rely on others to tell them what they are worth (i.e. does this dress make my hips look big?) "Do your homework," says Overton-Healy. One resource is salary.com. You type in the job title, zip code, and education, and it spits back a salary range plus a common benefits.

### 2. Factor in living expenses.

Research what your living expenses may be. Country, city,

married, not married, children, no children, one income, two incomes all need to be considered.

### 3. Estimate a ballpark salary.

This is part of knowing what you are worth, and knowing your limits. When the employer opens up the discussion, start in the mid to high end of your range. That way "if it goes down a little, it is not a big deal, but you still have room to negotiate up."

### 4. Allow the interviewer to start the conversation of salary.

### 5. Ask about compensatory benefits.

Dental, health, company car, on the job training, and maternity leave can add up, and make a lower-than-hoped-for salary look promising. Always ask.

### 6. Be willing to compromise salary for other benefits.

Offer four day work weeks or shorter hours. If you want the job, try to make it work, and if the employer wants you they will make it work.

### 7. If the employer is unwilling to compromise or the compromise is not satisfactory, walk away.

This is an especially tough concept for women, but absolutely necessary. Women will take jobs even if they are underpaid. "If there is not a mutual agreement, you need to thank them for their time and walk away. There are other jobs and opportunities." ●



## HOUSEWORK *is such a chore!*



boobs, and a big butt. Mentally, many have adopted this obsession with physicality as such an important aspect of our lives. We begin to concentrate on what we look like and we begin to use less of our mental ability. Looking back on my life growing up, I've never been the type to fantasize about being anything other than what I saw in the mirror. I do remember watching TV on weeknights and not seeing enough women playing positive roles. All I saw were housewives, secretaries, nurses, etc. These are all important jobs; the problem is that this kind of labor is devalued in society. At the time, I did not question what I saw because I didn't pay close attention to it. Reflecting on my past, I can't think of a good female role model on television to whom I looked up. I always looked up to my mother, my aunt and my teachers, but there wasn't anyone on television that I admired enough to follow in their footsteps.

My 7th grade teacher was always a positive role model in my eyes. I wish there were representations of women like her in the media. She was very driven and always wanted the best for her students. I remember going to see her after school, when she would go over my work with me. I could always depend on her to clarify the things with which I was having a hard time. Unfortunately, many of my classmates didn't have the same outlook on things. Some of them spent as much time as they could reading teen magazines, watching TV and doing their best to imitate these unrealistic images. I didn't understand why, but today, I do.

When young adults are constantly exposed to images in the media that are unrealistic, they begin to think that they need to look just like those people. Some teenagers go to the extent of even risking their lives to perfect what they see every day in the mirror. How can we stop this? The only answer to this is a better depiction of women in the media. Why aren't teenagers taught that being bigger is okay as long as your health is not at risk? Why must a young teenager look in the mirror and find something wrong with the shape of her nose? Why must girls feel the need to use make up at such a young age? These are questions that need to be fired at the media. ●

Source: Women's Images and Realities: A Multicultural Anthology. Kesselman, McNar, Schniedwind.

### **BAD GIRLS** continued from cover...

crimes that previously flew under the radar.

Also partially responsible for the increasing number of arrests of young women is the re-categorization of status offenses as violent offenses. For instance, making arrests mandatory for all domestic violence related incidents has resulted in a higher rate of arrest for girls. Chesney-Lind said that girls who have been charged with beating their mothers are more likely to be arrested than their brothers are for the same crime. Girls assaulting their female relatives accounts for the majority of girls' arrests in domestic violence charges.

"Now I'm not condoning this, but raise your hand if you've ever hit your sister," Chesney-Lind said. "Don't really raise your hand, but I'd be the first one with my hand up."

Chesney-Lind also jokingly said that her research left the American family looking

a lot like "Fight Club."

Chesney-Lind emphasized that the same skewed racial percentages that show up with men's arrest rates also plague women's. Three out of every seven women arrested are black, and three times as many black women as white women are actually incarcerated. Native American women are also disproportionately represented among U.S. prisoners.

She also noted the less than adequate conditions in U.S. juvenile detention facilities and prisons and the necessity of prison reform.

"The Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have been coming in, and that's not a good sign for how we're running our prisons," Chesney-Lind said. The American Civil Liberties Union is investigating two New York prisons: Lansing and Tryon Juvenile Detention Centers.

"Wherever you have men guarding women, you will have sexual abuse," Chesney-Lind said. Verbal, physical and sexual abuse, as well as a "severe lack of programming," are huge problems in prisons across the entire U.S.—the country with the highest incarceration rate in the world, comparing its share of the world's prisoners to its percentage of the total population.

Chesney-Lind quoted Senator James Webb about that staggering rate: "Either we are the most evil people in the world, or we are doing something wrong." In the end, though, Chesney-Lind suggested that a large part of what is going on is how the media is representing women, and urged the audience to "look at the good news" (such as women's success in sports or the arts) for what is happening with America's daughters, not to focus solely on the negative images presented to us. ●

# Senior

BY JESSIE BALDWIN

Abigail Griffith



Abigail Griffith, English major and WMST minor, is off to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where she will pursue an M.A. in English with a concentration in Creative Writing this fall. She recently studied abroad in Ireland at Trinity College Dublin, and says the experience gave her “a newfound appreciation for the many ways in which Alfred’s faculty members seek to incorporate feminism in the classroom. You don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone!”

Abby is currently working on her WMST capstone project, in which she is examining the evolution of the representation of women in graphic novels. On top of that, she is also writing a collection of short stories for her thesis in English. Abby has contributed

to the *Alphadelphian* all four years of her attendance here at Alfred, and was managing editor her sophomore year in 2008.

When I asked her if she had any advice to leave Alfred students, she said, “Get involved. Join organizations you might not have normally considered joining. Study abroad. If it weren’t for some fabulous friends and professors, who took it upon themselves to encourage my cynical freshman self, I would’ve missed out on an entire range of wonderful experiences, including the four years I’ve spent working on the publication you currently hold in your hands. Don’t underestimate the difference just one person can make within the AU community.”

Leah Houk wants to be a school psychologist, and is headed to AU’s grad program in the fall to make it happen. She is a double major in Psychology and Spanish as well as a WMST minor. “I love kids,” Leah says when asked why she wants to be a school psychologist. “It’s also funny because I was homeschooled,” she adds. Along with grad school, Leah wants to go to Latin America; whether she is studying or doing a service-oriented project, she hopes to develop fluency in Spanish.

Leah is a member of Women’s Issues Coalition, a graduate of the Women’s Leadership Academy, Vice President of Green Alfred, a writing center tutor, a career advising intern at the Career Development Center, and the Arts and Entertainment Editor of the *Fiat Lux*. Leah says about her enthusiastic involvement, “The

thing I like best about Alfred has been learning to collaborate with different people to do projects I otherwise wouldn’t have done. I like being involved in campus life.”

Leah has attended several conferences with other AU students, including the Power-shift conference, which was the first national environmental summit on climate change, and she lobbied at Capitol Hill for an improved energy bill. Leah has a broad range of interests, and she is writing and illustrating a feminist children’s book for her WMST thesis.

When asked what piece of advice she has for Alfred students, Leah said, “Use your time at AU to widen your comfort zone by pushing yourself to do things—both academic and social—that you wouldn’t have thought you’d ever do.”

Leah Houk



Amanda Louise Fazzino



This past winter, Amanda Fazzino went to a students’ missions conference, Urbana, in St. Louis. She says it “was life changing. It helped me realize what is important to me and that I have a huge heart for missions. At this point I’m up for anything, but want to use my talents in photography to raise awareness and help others around the world.”

Amanda is graduating with a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts with a concentration in photography and a minor in WMST. She is a graduate of the Women’s Leadership Academy, having completed her capstone project last year, which was a group project to pull together an after school workshop on leadership, ethics, and self-esteem for girls.

Recently, Amanda had one of her

photographs represent AU’s photography department at a SUNY school art exhibition. Also, she is putting together her senior show, working with found negatives, printing mural-sized photographs and building display case pieces, which she has constructed with the help of her father.

A piece of advice she leaves for current and incoming Alfred students is to “take advantage of all the facilities we have on campus and really dive into the community. The experience I have had with the community has supplied me with knowledge beyond what I could have learned in my classes. I have become close with friends, faculty, and community members that live here, and can say I really have seen and experienced the heart of Alfred.”



# Spotlights

Ashleigh Hardes is applying to AmeriCorps VISTA and hopes to be placed somewhere in the Southwest. After that she intends to pair grad school with the PeaceCorps, so that she can earn a Master's degree in International Development while she is abroad.

On campus, Ashleigh is a member of Green Alfred, with which she went to the PowerShift conference in the fall of 2008. Ashleigh studied abroad in Kenya during the spring of 2009 with the School for International Training, followed by a month-long internship at the Eastleigh Community Centre in Mathare Valley, one of the largest slums in East Africa. While interning she worked on many projects, some of which included working with female Somali refugees, children, and a women's self-help

group making ceramic jewelry. Ashleigh thoroughly enjoyed studying abroad, and said, "Most of my awesome experiences in college took place in Kenya."

For Ashleigh's capstone project, she is doing an exhibition to display "artifacts" of women artisans from places she has traveled, mainly Central America and East Africa. She wants to show where the artifacts came from, what they are made of, and what the women artisans get paid for them, in order to teach people about the realities of economic development among artisans and craftspeople of developing nations.

"Get involved, study abroad, but have fun while doing it; enjoy your time at Alfred – it flies by," Ashleigh said when asked what advice she would give to Alfred students.

Ashleigh Hardes



Laura Reyome



A graduate of the Women's Leadership Academy, Laura Reyome is an English major and WMST minor. Laura is headed off to Carlton University for literature after Alfred, and intends to become a professor, like her mom. Laura recently attended an international Virginia Woolf conference, where she presented as a panelist. She says the conference "sparked a passion for Virginia Woolf in me," and it is part of the reason she decided to go on to grad school.

Both Laura's thesis and capstone project involve Virginia Woolf. Her thesis uses literary theory to do a close reading of Virginia Woolf's *The Waves*, studying the voice of the individual and the voice of the nation throughout the text. For her capstone project, she is doing an exhibition of the archival materials in Herrick Library entitled *Three Women: Virginia Woolf, Vita Sackville-West,*

and Evelyn Openhym. The project will be centering on Openhym, who put together most of the archives.

Laura has been a member of Women's Issues Coalition (WIC) since her freshmen year, helping with projects such as Take Back the Night and The Vagina Monologues. She says, "Some of my fondest memories of Alfred are from WIC." This is Laura's third year working on the *Alphadelpian*, of which she was managing editor last year.

Laura's parting advice for Alfred students is, "Alfred is a special and unique place, and your time here should be used to the fullest. Join as many organizations as you can. If you can double major, do it. If you can't, grab an extra minor or two, but fill your time and enjoy every day at Alfred! You only get to do this once."

In the fall, Amanda Sullivan is going to the University of Buffalo for a Master's in social work. She will graduate in May with a double major in Comparative Cultures and Sociology and minors in WMST and Anthropology.

Amanda has been on the soccer team and the lacrosse team all four years, and captain of both for the last two years. She is also a member of SAAC, VPAC, and Captain's Council. Last semester, she did an internship with Women, Infants, and Children. This semester, Amanda is one of Karen Porter's research grant assistants. Currently, Amanda is a member of the Women's Leadership Academy where she is helping to plan Women's Conference in October 2010, whose slogan is, "Don't

Merely Exist...Lead." For her capstone project and undergraduate thesis, Amanda is writing a paper about parental rights in the work force and how they differ globally.

Amanda's advice for all Alfred students is to "join the Women's Leadership Academy. It has been so helpful and supportive to me, and given me the tools I needed to take the next step and apply to grad school. The Academy has given me the confidence to find my path. All the women have been a real support system. Besides that, get involved, join a team, club, anything. Make your mark in Alfred. Be competitive with yourself to be the best person you can be, get better grades, be a better person, and a better friend. And," she adds, "have fun."

Amanda Sullivan



# A TRADITION OF RADICALISM :

## ABIGAIL ALLEN WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Each year Alfred University remembers Abigail Allen, AU foremother and pioneer in the field of higher education for women, by honoring a faculty or staff member, student, and alumna in her name.

The 2010 faculty award was given to Sandra Singer, Professor of German, for her leadership on campus and contribution to the lives of AU women. In nominating her, colleagues recognized that "she has been a mentor and a model to both students and faculty alike," citing her long tenure as organizer of the Women's Studies Roundtable series as well as service to the Humanities through Phi Beta Kappa and the NEH committee.

Singer is "a valuable, engaged, supportive member of the Women's Studies community on every level," as her nominator observes. "In her steady, sure, confident way, Sandra chal-

lenges all of us to be," in the memorable words of Allen herself, "radical, radical to the core."

The 2010 student award honors senior Laura Reyome, an English major and Women's Studies minor who, according to a faculty nominator, "has spent the past four years tirelessly promoting discussion of feminism – or, as she regularly reminds her peers, *feminisms* – in the AU community." Faculty who have worked with Reyome both in and out of the classroom praise her uncompromising commitment to "keeping radicalism alive" on campus.

Christa Nyman Christakis '01, the 2009 alumna award winner, was recognized during Alumni Weekend last June. The award honors her advocacy of women's health and contributions to women's lives both on our campus and in her own community (see the interview with Christakis below).

The 2010 alumna award will be given in June. ●

## A Conversation with Alumna Christa Christakis

BY LEAH HOUK



*Christa Nyman Christakis, class of 2001, was honored with the 2009 Abigail Allen Alumna Award for her dedication to women's health care. Christakis is the Director of Quality and Research Initiatives for the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS), where she advocates for hospitals and other health care organizations across New York on quality-related issues. Christakis is also a board member of the Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, as well as of the AU Women's Leadership Center. Women's health care, especially reproductive health care, is one of her areas of expertise and greatest interest.*

**Leah Houk:** Can you tell me a little about your time at AU and how that influenced your career choice?

**Christa Christakis:** I majored in Environmental Science with a minor in Writing. I always thought I would work in policy and advocacy, but I originally thought I would have an environmental focus. That switched toward the end of my time at Alfred, thanks to an internship I had with the Family Planning Initiative in Albany during the summer between my junior and senior years. Reproductive health care has always been a real interest and passion of mine.

**LH:** Were you involved with the Women's Issues Coalition?

**CC:** Definitely. WIC discussions and activities like anti-domestic violence events and Take Back the Night influenced me a lot and really got me more and more interested in women's health issues. I remember one time WIC took a trip to the Menstruation Museum in D.C., which was both very odd and really interesting. This guy ran the museum out of his house, which was also a little strange, but he had tons of information about the history of menstruation, throughout the world and through time. There are so many rituals and beliefs and practices surrounding menstruation, and it's pretty fascinating.

**LH:** What sort of women's health issues are you currently working on?

**CC:** When I took the position at HANYS, I knew it didn't have a specific emphasis on women's health issues, but whenever those issues come up, they typically fall into my lap. Obstetrics is an area I'm currently working with. I'm working to provide hospital obstetric teams training and education to improve the quality of care they deliver.

**LH:** Do you have any children of your own?

**CC:** I have a 10-month old daughter, Katerina. It's the best thing I've ever done. Becoming a mother has given me a completely different perspective on career and family. I always thought, "I'm a feminist! I can do it all—have a busy career, take care of my family, volunteer..." Nope. I used to look at all the women who seemed to do it all, and I'd think, "How do I become like that?" Well, it's not real. That perfect life isn't real!

I have an example for you. My husband and I had a friend who stayed over at our house several months ago, and I just happened to have made mini quiches for breakfast the next morning. They're simple and easy to make. I also had some to-go coffee cups lying around, and when my friend got up in the morning, I offered her some mini quiches and a to-go cup of coffee. She said, "Who ARE you? Superwoman?" I was playing into that same illusion without meaning to, and I now know from the inside that it's not what it seems.

**LH:** How do you balance everything? You still seem to do a whole lot.

**CC:** I'm trying hard to balance career and family and time for myself, and I've come to the realization that I don't have to be everything to everybody. That's really important. The bottom line is, it's most important to me right now that my family is happy and healthy, and I try to keep that in mind at all times. Also, rather than saying "yes and yes and yes" all the time, I try to pick the few things I do outside the home carefully and then do them really well.

**LH:** Do you have any advice for the young women graduating from AU?

**CC:** Know what your priorities are, know that they're going to change, and that it's okay. I used to be very involved in local party politics, and that was a real passion of mine. Now I have no desire to do that, and that's okay. My energy and focus are elsewhere. Also, find mentors—either male or female—who can guide you and advise you in your life after college. ●



### Ladies First continued from cover...

Even in their first year, the Athenaeans were holding discussions on topics such as suffrage, slavery, and the female intellect. In Susan Strong's dissertation, she refers to a debate staged in 1875 by one of the lyceums, where the members posed as members of Congress. Set in the then futuristic time of 2000, the matter at hand was whether men would be allowed to recover their right to vote. Strong writes, "Women seized the opportunity to make comical arguments that men should stay in their appointed sphere, and that women would be forced to wash dishes again if men were granted suffrage. The result favored permitting men once more to share in ruling the nation."

Obviously, these women had a strong voice on this campus long before women were even allowed in most American universities, a voice that was respected by those around them and given an outlet for self-expression. Here, they attended classes side-by-side with male students. Anywhere else, they would have attended separate classes, studying

different material than male students. In her book *Thought Knows No Sex*, Susan Strong again explores women's issues at Alfred, noting that the lyceums regularly held joint meetings with the men's societies. By 1854, women on campus had the power to bring in literary speakers as well as the right to give graduation orations—an outstanding honor in itself. Among these speakers were important voices such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Sojourner Truth.

I would like to share with you a piece of their constitution, from the Athenaeum's first record book. It reads:

*It is particularly enjoined that all members of this society treat each other with delicacy and respect and that all discussions shall be conducted with open generosity and candor and that all personal allusions and bitter language be carefully avoided so that no sisters feelings shall be wounded that hand in hand concord and harmony we together cherish and fulfill our Motto: La sagesse soutient l'univers.*

Roughly translated, their motto means, "Wisdom runs the world." I was struck not only

by the eloquence of this writing, which was of course one of the society's goals, but also the respect that these women held for one another. It strikes me that after graduation I will be part of a network of feminists—former and future Alfred graduates, Alphadelphians and WMST faculty. Whether we use these connections or not, we can be assured that there are those out there who share our principles and our desire for change; we are a part of this collective.

The records for these lyceums will not hold up forever, and they certainly could not survive the close study of all those who should see them. Already the pages are yellowed and falling from their binding. So, with this article, I hope to bring you a sense of the strong sentiment that kept those lyceums running until 1920, the confidence these women had in themselves and each other. For once in my academic career, the block quote above is meant to do more than add a few extra lines. I hope those words will resonate with you, as they have with me. Remember, wisdom is one of the most powerful tools we have as feminists. ●

## WHAT IS GOOD HAIR?

BY CHARISMA MCMILLAN

For many years, a woman with long, beautiful, blonde, easy to manage hair has been the ideal American woman. Everywhere you look, in magazines and on television, there is a woman with the perfect body, accessories, clothing and the perfect hair to complete her look. What does this do for the African American woman?

Society's view of good hair causes those that don't fit into the vision to conform. A lot of people believe that when an African American woman wears her hair natural it will be "nappy" and tough, making it hard to manage. When a woman is seen with natural hair many will look at her and think that she is not properly groomed. But everyone's hair gets tangled sometimes and everyone experiences

a bad hair day. Actress Nia Long says, "There's always a sort of pressure within the black community, like 'Oh, if you have good hair, you're prettier or better than the brown-skinned girl that wears an Afro or the dreads or the natural hairstyle.' " Society has given African American women the idea that natural hair is bad, so African American women buy relaxers to straighten their hair and weaves to lengthen it.

But what really makes "good hair"? It's not easy to determine. "Good hair is hair that is still on your head," says Sarah Adegbile, an Alfred

University student. "Well groomed hair is good hair," says Mike Conyers, an Alfred State College student. "Nice thick healthy hair, with no split ends, is good hair," says Yolette Perry, another Alfred University student. "Good hair is hair that is in its natural state, it is not altered in any form or any color," says Jessica Lamar, who attends AU.

When I decided to get my hair relaxed, it wasn't because I was trying to conform to society's view of good hair; it was because straighter hair was more manageable for me. Although many may think that when an African American woman relaxes her hair she is trying to become Caucasian, it's really more complicated. For me, processed hair is good hair because it makes life easier. But for others, natural hair is good hair because it's in its natural state and is free to move as it pleases. Good hair is whatever looks good on a person; it doesn't matter to me what other people may think about my hair, as long as I'm satisfied with the way I look. Natural or processed, it doesn't matter to me.

Still, the hair industry is a multi-million dollar industry, fueled by the media. Companies seek to make a profit off of women trying to achieve the perfect look. Ironically, African American women relax their hair to straighten it while Caucasian women perm their hair to make it curly—either way, women focus a lot of attention on their hair. Many spend an hour a day or more on their hair.

But there are many ethical issues raised by the hair industry, especially the existence of extensions made from human hair. Where does this hair come from? In India, women offer their hair to deities in Hindu temples to show respect and gratitude. Few realize that their hair offerings sometimes end up in the lucrative hair export market, which serves places from China to Hollywood. The tradition of hair offerings in India is a symbol of religious devotion and a

*Continued on page 10...*



Hair extensions can cost as much as \$3,000.



# FEMINIST MOTHER: IT SHOULDN'T BE A CONTRADICTION

BY DIONNE LEE

AU senior Amanda Fazzino participated in the group show "7" last semester at the Robert Turner Student Gallery. She was among seven photographers who displayed work from seven different photographic media. Fazzino chose to work in the medium of found negatives, which in her case meant using prints of photographs taken by her grandfather. Piecing together her grandfather's images, Fazzino created diptychs and triptychs to tell a narrative of the nuclear family of the 1940's and 1950's.

In the process of working with her grandfather's negatives, Fazzino found herself experiencing an evolution of personal ideals concerning what it means to be a woman in today's society. Rifling through photos depicting typical family life at the time, many of which feature a stay-at-home mother with her young children and an absent or rarely seen male figure, Fazzino came to her own conclusions about what role, as a female, she wants to play in today's society.

These days it is common for a mother to have a job and raise kids simultaneously. Fazzino admits that her family ideals are opposite; she sees herself becoming a full-time mother. She states, "Having a job doesn't mean being behind a desk—you can choose to just be a mom." As a Women's Studies minor, Fazzino admits to sometimes feeling pressured by the word "feminism" because of the connotations attached to it. "I feel like if I am a feminist, I am expected to be a CEO or something, when really I just want to be a mom," she said. "I'd be doing the same thing, just on a different playing field."

I believe Fazzino's view brings up an important aspect of the word feminism and how it has been allowed to take on various shapes and meanings that may be alienating to women who do not fit the stereotypical mold exactly. Are we indirectly preventing a group of women from identifying themselves as feminists because they choose to stay at home and have their husbands be the breadwinners? Are they any less independent by deciding to exercise their independence through raising a family and cultivating other passions as opposed to making money?

These days many families with two working parents are forced into such a lifestyle simply because of economics. Living in the U.S. isn't cheap, and with a currently lagging economy the need to make money is a high priority among Americans. Living on a single income is difficult or nearly impossible for most families. However, if a family can live comfortably on a single income,

would the stay-at-home parent be viewed as a non-contributor to the household just because he or she isn't financially supporting the family? Some may view the mother as bowing to patriarchal pressure because she is satisfied in a domestic context. But in fact there is nothing submissive about making a choice, and sticking with it.

We need to change the kind of attention motherhood gets. Parenting is not a typical job with a time sheet, bi-weekly pay and set vacation time; it is a twenty-four hour a day job, and once you decide to take it on, you're in it for life. One is more likely to hear, "Great job at closing that case the other day, Liz!" as opposed to "Wow, you really exercised some really great parenting skills at Timmy's birthday last week." This is because some see being a stay-at-home parent as an activity that is not only not directly contributing anything to society, but also lacking a need for brainpower or not challenging enough for today's women. Any parent, mother or father, is going to be a teacher, counselor, cook, event planner, coach and more. All those jobs, whether they take place in the home or the office, with kids or co-workers, are valuable and worthy contributions to the world we live in.

Talking with Amanda awakened my own consciousness towards motherhood and feminism and made me think about why, as feminists, our current generation has not considered motherhood as an act of feminism itself. Not allowing her traditional views of the female role in society to hold her back, Fazzino proclaims, "I am independent...I am a hard worker...I am a go-getter," proving that one doesn't have to fit into any sort of box to be strong, independent and female. ●



An example of a diptych taken by Fazzino's grandfather.

## Good Hair continued from page 9...

surrender of the ego. Women's hair collected at temples many times ends up as hair extensions for Hollywood film actors and other wealthy elite who pay as much as \$3,000 dollars for the product. Every year \$136 million worth of hair is shipped

from India, making it the largest exporter of human hair. \$82 million worth of human hair was exported to the United States from India in 2004.

The hair industry is taking over, going so far as to steal hair to make weaves. But hair should be just that: hair. The truth is that there is no such thing as good hair. Hair

comes in too many textures, shades, and lengths for one particular variant of it to be the best. Good hair, just like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. ●

Sources: <http://www.womensenews.org/story/business/060709/indian-temples-do-brisk-business-womens-hair>, <http://www.naturalhairjourney.com/blog/2010/01/over-view-of-natural-hair-in-2009.html>, [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/27/fashion/27SKIN.html?pagewanted=1&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/27/fashion/27SKIN.html?pagewanted=1&_r=1)



# Dean Queens

BY LOGAN GOULETT

In an article published by *Time* magazine in November of 2009 entitled “The 10 Best College Presidents,” Mary Sue Coleman from the University of Michigan and Juliet Garcia from the University of Texas at Brownsville were the only women to make the list. According to another *Time* article written in 2006 by Tamar Lewin, the majority of students enrolled in undergraduate, graduate and professional schools were, in contrast to that statistic, female. Both pieces illustrate a discrepancy in the ratios between males and females in classes and in administrative positions. But interestingly, this isn’t a problem for Alfred University.

This past year, Alfred University’s School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Inamori School of Engineering, and the School of Art and Design have all been led by female deans. Although Dr. Mary McGee and Dr. Doreen Edwards are quite new to their positions, and Dr. Mary McInnes has only recently begun serving as Interim Dean since the departure of Dean Joe Lewis, all three women are extremely inspiring to many students at AU.

“I think when most people think of women in education, they see them in traditional teaching positions, not in administration,” said Ulana Bihun, a senior Comparative Cultures major. “As a woman, I’m inspired by our deans. I didn’t even know we had three.”

Despite three out of AU’s four schools currently being led by women and more female students enrolling in colleges and universities every year, the male-to-female ratio is still significantly unbalanced. This is not only in academia, but in the corporate world as well. In an article called “Women Deans: Patterns of Power,” author Sun-Young Kim states that “According to a National Public Radio broadcast, two years ago only eight CEOs at Fortune 500 companies were female.” Although this figure is rather staggering, more women are choosing to get MBAs in business every year, and of the colleges and universities in the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, there has been a significant rise in the number of female deans and professors.

The field of engineering has seen a similar shift. When Dean Edwards was an undergraduate studying engineering she didn’t have a single female professor. Several years later, when she attended Northwestern University in Chicago for her doctorate, she found herself surrounded by women in what has traditionally been a male dominated field.

Sam Pribish, a senior majoring in fine arts, thinks it’s very important to have women leaders in Alfred University. “I think it’s great to see women in administration, because we really need more positive role models. If young women aren’t seeing female leaders, they aren’t going to realize their own potential for success.” ●



At first glance, **Mary McGee, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences**, looks more like someone you’d spot at the MoMA than in a small school in western NY. Yet it is not only her creativity but also her relentless dedication to the arts and sciences that attracted her to the Alfred community two years ago, when she was hired. Since then she’s been promoting “pedagogy in practice” and encouraging faculty throughout AU to cultivate meaningful and long-lasting relationships with students that transcend majors, while working to redefine the notion of a Liberal Arts education. McGee also has two daughters and was one of the first women to graduate from Georgetown’s College of Arts and Sciences.



**Doreen Edwards, the Dean of the Inamori School of Engineering**, began her career at AU in the fall of 1997. Having graduated with her Ph.D. from Northwestern in Chicago, Edwards was initially attracted to Alfred because of its Materials Science program. For eight years, she enjoyed teaching her favorite class, Thermodynamics. Although she admits thermodynamics is often challenging for her students, she enjoys working with them and supports “more hands-on, studio-based learning.” After a decade of teaching, Edwards was asked to become dean, and she is currently completing her first year in the position. When she is not in the office, Edwards enjoys gardening and the warmer weather of Alfred, NY.



**Mary McInnes, Professor of Art History and Theory**, began her career at AU in the fall of 1997. Having graduated from U.C. Berkeley with degrees in Anthropology and Art, she soon became very involved in museum studies and curation. These interests eventually led her to pursue a doctorate in Art History at Boston University. Since joining Alfred’s School of Art and Design, McInnes has worked to always incorporate women artists in her classes. “As a feminist, I try to bring in that perspective and talk about women that would be models for my female students,” McInnes said.

# faculty profiles

Welcome new faces to Alfred!



Robert Kruckeberg

**T**his past summer, **Art History Professor Martha Anderson** kept herself busy researching the life and work of African photographer J.A. Green through funding from the Getty Collaborative Grant.

Although she has a great interest in African Art, Anderson believes that the feminist perspective is an important one to keep present in the classroom. This is apparent not only through her Women in Art class, but in all of her Art History courses, in which she tries to introduce women artists whenever possible. Because she was active throughout the feminist movement of the '60s and '70s, presenting the feminist perspective comes naturally for Anderson.

**T**he brave **Cecilia Beach, Chair of the Division of Modern Languages and Professor of French**, says, "Unlike many women, I'm not afraid to travel alone... [It's] an opportunity." However, Beach does admit that her near fall off the cliffs of Moher this past summer was frightening.

Currently, her research centers on the work of nineteenth century writer André Léo. In *Aline-Ali*, one of Léo's novels that Beach is working on publishing with two French colleagues, the main character cross-dresses in order to escape the binds of her male-dominated society. Unfortunately, despite the strong relationships she cultivates while incognito, the protagonist discovers that, "only if you're dressed as a man can you be a brother to a man."

As the state representative for the Women in French Conference, Beach is also helping to plan next year's meeting,



Erin Redmond

where she will be leading two panels on women's theatre.

**E**ver since **Professor of Philosophy Bill Dibrell** began teaching at Alfred University, his enthusiasm in the classroom has made him a favorite among students. "He's really good at connecting philosophy to real life; he's phenomenal," praised a senior psychology major. Not only is Dibrell an amazing teacher, but he also serves as Chair of Human Studies, is formerly an active volunteer in Alfred's Fire Department, and has been a feminist since completing his undergraduate work at San Diego State University. Since graduating from San Diego, Dibrell has continued to engage himself in gender studies by teaching courses such as Women, Knowledge & Reality, a course based on theory, and Women in Society. He is actually the only male professor to have ever taught the latter course at Alfred University.

As a feminist, Dibrell seeks to "protect the gains of the past while making gains in the future. The challenge is to not go backward."

**Professor of Art Theory Beth Ann Dobie** chills with her collection of penguins while advising students on courses here at AU. When asked what she enjoys most about AU, she responded that she loves her colleagues and her engaged students. She added, "The landscape is beautiful around here."

Dobie has taught at AU for 16 years. Currently, she is teaching art theory in the IArt program. Even when not teaching WMST courses, Dobie integrates



Maggie Thomas

her feminist views into her teaching by making sure to include female artists and authors and calling attention to gender. One article she is currently working on is titled "The Way the Use of Art Has Been Expanded," and she includes examples of women artists who use their hair as a medium.

**Professor of History Vicki Eaklor's** favorite thing about her current Women in Society course is "watching students discover that they are probably feminists, even if they didn't think they were before." Eaklor recently wrote an article—soon to be published—about teaching GLBT history in the classroom. She also created and taught one of the first courses in the U.S. on GLBT history and is passionately pursuing ways to integrate those issues into contemporary pedagogy.

At home, Eaklor is learning to restore vintage drums. She has rebuilt and sold several types of drums, though she focuses on pre-1970's Ludwig brands. Although she is always concentrating on WMST and GLBT studies, music and the study of how it affects society remains her first love.

**Robyn Goodman, Professor of Communication Studies**, is currently teaching Global Communication and Introductory Newswriting and Reporting. She incorporates WMST into her newswriting courses by discussing gender issues so students can be educated on the topic. She also teaches Gender, Race, Class and Media (previously Women, Minorities and the Media) to make students more aware of "stereotyp-



ical coverage and how to avoid it.”

Goodman is an avid traveler. “My most recent travel was to a conference in Sweden ... I’ve been to four of the seven continents, and I will visit a fifth one this summer.” She is a founder of the World Journalism Education Congress (WJEC), which will be holding its next conference in South Africa this summer. It will bring together journalists from six continents to discuss how to improve journalism education across the globe, and a key topic will be women and diversity.

“**E**nglish Professor” and “stylish” rarely appear in a sentence without sarcasm, but in the case of **Assistant Professor of English Juliana Gray** it is an apt pairing. Gray’s whimsical choice in clothing parallels her writing style. Her poem “Nancy Drew, 45, Posts on Match.com” was published recently in *Stone Canoe: A Journal of Arts and Ideas*. Gray’s combination of humor and contemporary subjects wins the hearts of many undergraduate English students searching for temporary relief from *Hamlet* or *Moby Dick*.

She contributes to WMST in and out of the classroom. Always wary that discussing gender topics may lead to “man-bashing,” she includes literary works on the nature of masculinity and femininity. Her own personal belief is that feminism strives for equality, not domination. Outside the classroom she is the faculty advisor for WIC and she spoke at the Women’s Studies Roundtable in March.

**Professor of Sociology Larry Greil** came to Alfred University in 1977. The list of articles published, reviewed and presented on his c.v. takes up fourteen pages. He started the Honors program, has been faculty advisor for the Hillel house for thirty years, and is currently working in a seven-person team following 4,712 U.S. women as they progress through their fertile years into menopause. Why does he do so much? He says he “can’t stand things not being done.”

For him, in everything he teaches about society, there is a male and a female side. One class he teaches, titled Crime and Delinquency, allows him to announce, “Good news! Women are catching up.”

**Laura Greyson, Professor of Political Science**, says of the Women’s Leadership Center that “There are some really impressive programs that bring together

fascinating people. I’ve enjoyed—and learned a lot—from the other members of the advisory board.” In addition to serving as a mentor to students in the Women’s Leadership Academy, she serves as an advisor on the Jones Memorial Hospital director’s board and with the Bethesda Foundation, an organization that gives financial aid to groups promoting healthcare. Both groups deal indirectly with women’s health care. Greyson states, “We live in a medically underserved area, and those needs are intense. It means a lot to me to be able to play some part in helping people meet those needs.”

She also teaches the class Sex and the Body Politic alternating years.

**Allen Grove, Professor of English and director of the CLAS FYE program**, although not currently teaching a WMST course, always incorporates gender studies into his courses, striving to “restore important but lost female voices.” In last semester’s English Romantic Movement course Grove took a gendered approach, teaching important female authors instead of just the six commonly taught male poets. Grove’s company, Whitlock Publishing, is trying to get important women’s literature back into print. For example, Grove has recently published the long out of print *Danesbury House* by Ellen Wood. Grove has also just written the afterword for *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, sharing insight into women and the gothic novel in Jane Austen’s period.

When not teaching, Grove works for About.com writing articles and managing a page about college admissions. In the future, Grove wants to teach a course on writing for the web.

“**W**hen dealing with history and religion, I don’t agree with specialty subtopics. I make sure to deal with gender and race the whole way through because everybody is equally important to the story,” says **Assistant Professor of Religion Wakoh Shannon Hickey**. The most important thing she wants her students to walk away with is “a broader perspective on themselves and the world,” a vision of “how the world might make sense to someone very different from yourself.”

A Zen Priest, Hickey plans to spend three months this summer in California for the next step of her Zen training. “We will only harm each other out of ignorance and blindness if we do not educate one another about our difference,” says Hickey.

For fun, Hickey likes to go sledding, eat Thai food, and fly stunt kites.

**W**hile writing for a local newsletter and editing three anthologies for Friends Journal Press, **Professor of English Emerita Sharon Hoover** is helping to organize the 2010 “Writers at the Beach: Pure Seaglass,” a conference to raise money and awareness for Mitochondrial disease, which inhibits brain and muscle function. Hoover, along with Melissa Ryan, is in the final stages of compiling an annotated bibliography of Willa Cather’s reading, which is being prepared for placement on the Willa Cather Foundation website. Additionally, this year she had an article published on the effect of domestic violence on the mother of the victim.

She and her husband, Dean, enjoy having visitors, including former colleagues and students. Dividing her time between Lewes, DE and Rehoboth Beach, FL, Hoover still manages to visit Alfred now and then.

**Amy Jacobson** is in her second year as **Director of Gift Planning** at Alfred University. She talks with alumni about various ways to stay connected with and to support Alfred University. Given her background as former Director of the WLC and member of the Women’s Studies Executive Committee, she is in a great position to update alumni who are interested in women’s issues at Alfred. When her travel schedule permits, Jacobson enjoys attending Women’s Studies events such as the Riley Lecture and Roundtables.

In her free time she loves to bake, and hopes to improve her downhill skiing to keep up with her husband, Allen Grove, and kids, Abby and Nathan.

**W**ithout looking at the roster, **Robert Kruckeberg, Visiting Assistant Professor of History**, estimates that the enrollment in his class Witchcraft in Europe is “mostly women.” His class examines the history of the crime, which is not gender specific, but primarily targeted women. Beginning the class with a seminal text by a Catholic theologian, whose writing he describes as “the most misogynistic,” inspired a good deal of outrage from some of his students.

Kruckeberg is now teaching his second semester at Alfred, having just previously finished his doctoral thesis at the University of Michigan, in which he discussed the history of the lottery in 18th century France. He also presented on the history of Haiti for a group Ber-

gren forum which took place just after the Haitian earthquake.

Teaching keeps him extremely busy, but he is planning on camping when he can, and for that he says he is "waiting for the summer."

"Maybe I did it to trick people into reading Faulkner," **Susan Mayberry, Professor of English**, says about adding Toni Morrison into her WMST course on Faulkner and Morrison. Mayberry's recently published book on Morrison, *Can't I Love What I Criticize? The Masculine and Morrison*, has received two awards: the 2008 Toni Morrison Society Book Recognition Award and the 2009 Outstanding Book Award from the Organization for the Study of Communication Language, and Gender, in Copenhagen.

Mayberry's newest book project, *Thoroughly Modern Theatrically Classical Dames*, is about six English stage dames, Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Vanessa Redgrave, Glenda Jackson, Diana Rigg, and Helen Mirren, who have all played Cleopatra (among many other Shakespearean parts and silver screen roles).

In addition to Faulkner and Morrison, Mayberry is teaching Appetites Abroad this spring, and is excited to be visiting Bologna instead of Paris this time.

As the speaker at this year's Convocation, **Herrick Librarian and University Archivist Laurie McFadden** was enthusiastic about teaching the newest members of the AU community something about the traditions they are inheriting. Her role as university archivist gives her access to a wealth of information about the history of AU, which she shared with the incoming students this Fall. She explained that Alfred and women's history are inextricably linked since "there have been women at Alfred since day one." Viewing the student symposium ledgers in the archives she is surprised to see how progressive the women's issues being debated were as early as 1850. Recently she has given lectures on this and other women's history for Carrie Voss's Social Foundations of Education and Vicki Eaklor's introductory Women's Studies course.

Though **Susan Morehouse, Chair of the Division of English and Professor of English**, never took a WMST course as an undergraduate, she clearly remembers when a fellow graduate student handed her *The Poetics of Gender*,

a collection of feminist theory edited by Nancy Miller. That gift "enabled [her] to [see] her work within a feminist framework—just because a friend said 'Here's a book, you'll like it.'"

This past summer, Morehouse received an International Faculty Development Grant to attend a seminar in Morocco. While there, she was able to visit an authentic bathhouse, or *hammau*. This experience brought her even closer to merging her understandings of herself as both a woman and a writer. She explains, "Naked and wet—you know, you really can't be more embodied than that." This spring, at a Bergren Forum, Morehouse presented a piece she wrote about her adventures abroad.

Over winter break, **Professor of History Gary Ostrower** took the time to enjoy two of his favorite things: cold and snow. He and his wife visited a ski resort in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Ostrower hit the slopes. "I am kind of athletic, even at my age!" he says.

Currently Ostrower is researching the California women's suffrage campaign of 1911. Ostrower is particularly interested in the role of rural men who voted in support of women's suffrage, believing that women's votes would clean up a corrupt legislature and lend support to alcohol prohibition.

Despite his interest in research and writing, Ostrower's first love is teaching. Although this often leaves little time for outside scholarship, Ostrower's office door is almost always open to any student who needs help, or who simply wants to chat.

"It's important that we always find something to challenge ourselves with, something we thought we couldn't do. You have no idea of how good you can be if you don't try," says **Julia Overton-Healy, Director of the Women's Leadership Center**. Overton-Healy is a resource for leadership for students and the community, providing programs and information. She hopes that the WLC will soon manage a grant to support research in women's leadership. Overton-Healy loves encouraging young women because "they make a difference in their own and others' lives."

Overton-Healy defended her dissertation in March and is looking at what is next. She says, "I am always looking for the next thing that's going to keep my light turned on."

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

**Professor of Sociology Karen Porter** has taught at Alfred University for 22 years. She has had a great influence on her past students and she continues to inspire her current students. She urges them to question the theory that "Anatomy is destiny" and challenges them to think outside the box and question the taken-for-granted nature of life. "A good teacher asks herself every day, 'how can I be more effective?'" Porter believes that the best way to effectively measure what students are learning in class is to interact in and outside of the classroom. She believes that by communicating with students in different settings, teachers can understand how well the knowledge is getting across.

Porter is now working on a federally funded project titled, "Enhancing Agency Effectiveness and Sustainability in Serving Rural Youth." This project provides her and a few students with expertise to develop research strategies. Students with majors in Criminal Justice, Sociology, and Political Science work weekly on this project with Porter. From this, she hopes students can master teamwork. She recognizes that this project is a great opportunity for these students to apply classroom knowledge to actual situations.

WMST Roundtables, Porter says, are excellent opportunities for WMST faculty to get together and share a common space. "We don't see our Women's Studies colleagues too often." Most importantly, she feels it's a great way to reconnect and share similar interests.

Porter looks forward to spring. She enjoys gardening, reading for leisure, and catching up on recommended movies. She is a full-time parent with a 16-year-old son. She attends his basketball and soccer games, makes sure he gets his homework done, and also spends time teaching him how to drive.

**Professor of Theatre Becky Prophet** is bringing feminism into her direction of the play *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which features a character named Lady Bucknell, whom Prophet describes as "one of the most powerful women in drama." Prophet says that sometimes men are chosen to play Bucknell because she is viewed as "too masculine," but Prophet makes a point to allow a woman to play the role.

Prophet won the gold medallion from



the KCACTF, a regional award given to faculty, recognizing her commitment to students in theatre.

Prophet views feminism as essential in teaching because plays before the 1980's lack strong feminine roles. Unfortunately, the majority of plays were written before that time.

In her extra time, Prophet loves to explore the outdoors; she traveled as far as Bryce Canyon in Utah and Yellowstone National Park. Her next destination is Texas, to visit Big Bend National Park.

**W**hile teaching at UT Austin as she worked towards her Ph.D., new faculty member and **Assistant Professor of Spanish Erin Redmond** was immersed in a society with very strong Hispanic roots. Speaking of her confidence in feminism, she says of the women that she met during this time, "They reinforced what I think I had always known abstractly [and] made me internalize that more." This summer, Redmond will continue her research on femininity and aging, focusing on the work of Sonia Coutinho, of Brazil, as well as Alicia Steinburg and Marta Lynch, of Argentina. She explains that these "countries have histories of equating youth with beauty in women."

Redmond is enjoying the small size of AU. She looks forward to asking her students what they're interested in taking when planning future courses.

**"I**n my own way I am a feminist," says **Assistant Professor of French Zakia Robana**. "Feminism can be molded in many ways. Before you are a feminist, you are a person." She incorporates women poets, playwrights, essayists, and filmmakers in her Francophone Africa class. For the last five years, Robana has been following the 10 oldest women of Djerba. She is in the process of finishing her book, which embraces the beauty of Djerba. Born into a family that "absolutely loves daughters," Robana embraces the beauty of women and always finds a way to specifically introduce the history of African women in her classes. She feels women play a much bigger role than they are given credit for. Robana states, "I am very proud of groundwork left by our [women] ancestors." She believes women are the providers, the healers, and best friends to men.

In her spare time away from Alfred University, she likes to help foreign students. She invites them to her home

and helps them become comfortable in their environment by sharing her life with them.

**W**hen she is not trying to interpret her toddler Lily's sign language, students can find **Assistant Professor of English Melissa Ryan** "scandalizing" her students with feminism. Ryan makes it a point to introduce definitions of feminism not only in WMST classes, but in all of her courses. Having identified with feminism at a young age after reading *Little Women*, she has since been passionate about challenging the idea of male privilege. Ryan continues her position as the faculty advisor for this year's *Alphadelphian*.

**Professor Pamela Schultz, Director of Communication Studies**, taught Interpersonal Communication but says she is also interested in gender. She is co-writing a book, with Dr. John Douard, called *Monstrous Crimes, Framing, and the Preventive State: The Moral Failure of Forensic Psychiatry*, which examines the history of the concept of the predator. She says, "people don't believe that women are capable of these crimes" because people tend to "view women as weaker and more nurturing." She is also working on a chapter for a book called *Ashgate Research Companion to Moral Panics*, which will talk about moral panic over "Pedophile Priests." In November 2009, Dr. Schultz presented papers at the annual convention of the American Society of Criminology and the National Communication Association.

She says, "My most important work is as the mom to Eileah, who turned 10 in February, and Brysen, who turned 5 in March."

**Professor of German Sandra Singer** originally aspired to be an entomologist and took beekeeping and nematology courses as an undergraduate. However, her strong ties to German culture prevailed. Her father was one of the lucky few who escaped Nazi Germany. Singer lived in Germany for several years, working at a girls' boarding school in Bavaria, and studying and working in Frankfurt am Main.

Since coming to Alfred, Singer organized the Women's Studies Roundtable for many years and was President of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Alfred University for two years. Singer has put her current research on hold as she confronts the changes resulting from the recent elimination of the German program.

**Assistant Professor of Political Science Bob Stein** integrates his ideas of race and gender into all of his classes. Currently, he is developing class exercises to create a better understanding among students of racial awareness and racial histories and would like them to realize the impact of "white privilege" during the 1930's through the 1950's. He has also taught the WMST course Sex and the Body Politic: Feminist Political Theory, which incorporated authors and activists such as bell hooks. In his Bureaucracy class, Stein includes *Bureau Men, Settlement Women* by Camilla Stivers as a required text, which is the only book to study the development of government regulatory systems from a gendered perspective.

**W**hen she isn't re-reading classic literature like Jane Austen, *Gilgamesh*, *Beowulf*, or the *Odyssey*, **Professor of English Emerita Susan Strong** has been using her 2008 retirement from AU to brush up on her Spanish and Russian—languages she was introduced to while auditing AU courses—for two cruises with her husband, one from San Juan and the other through the Baltic to St. Petersburg. Strong is also immersing herself in opera, reading a biography of Verdi and attending a "Live at the Met" HD performance of Simon Boccanegra with Plácido Domingo.

Migrating from North Carolina to Maine every year, the Strong's spend as much time as possible reading, playing tennis, visiting friends, and spending time with their grandchildren.

**W**ith a bright smile and high energy, **Assistant Professor of Psychology Maggie Thomas** brings WMST into her classroom. She came to AU from Penn State with a Ph.D. in Psychology and a minor in WMST. In Thomas's first year here at AU, she has taught introductory courses in psychology, as well as a course on the Psychology of Women. When asked about bringing WMST principles into the classroom she responded, "Absolutely, always. It's a part of me." She includes topics such as the difference between gender and sex in discussions of culture, something that is very unusual in her field.

When asked if there are differences between the female and male brain, she responded, "Yes, there are physical differences," but whether it is environmentally based or hormonal is impossible to tell because the brain is plastic and molded by our environment.

## Alfred Women You Should Know

# Inspiration in Flight: Lise Lemeland

BY BRYAN DALY

Lise Lemeland, an Assistant Professor of Drawing and Painting in Alfred's School of Art and Design, describes the process of art-making by isolating two concepts that assist in making decisions: insight and intuition. In a very simplified definition, insight is the epiphany that alerts the artist of something that becomes suddenly apparent, helpful and correct about where next to take their work to make it flourish. Her explanations of how this force shapes her artwork would sound familiar to artists of every kind, visual or otherwise. It becomes shocking, however, when she uses the word to describe her first time flying.

Two years ago, Lemeland spontaneously decided to take a chartered biplane flight on Martha's Vineyard. The pilot must have sensed that she was, in her own words, "an adrenaline junkie," and decided to take her for a loop and a spin. Somewhere in the air above the small island, spinning in and out of zero gravity, Lemeland experienced a moment of insight that drastically altered her lifelong understanding of herself as an artist. After her first ride in a small plane, she realized that she was a pilot.

It takes an admirable amount of self-determination and confidence to suddenly decide that it is time to learn how to fly, but it is easy to see that Lise Lemeland decides to do what she is called to do and accepts the difficulty as a given. When she had just finished an undergraduate degree in English from Stanford, Lemeland realized that she was a painter, and re-enrolled as an art student. She continued studying to be an artist through a graduate art program at Hunter College, during which time she gave birth to the first two of her three children.

She was already teaching at Alfred when she had her aerial epiphany. Her colleague Will Contino, also a pilot and an Assistant Professor of Printmaking, introduced her to a flight instructor in nearby Hornell. Not long after her first time piloting she knew that she needed not only to be a pilot, but an aerobat also. When she describes the process of executing a single roll, it takes a half a minute to explain the numerous and sometimes simultaneous manipulations of the controls she has to make as an aviatrix. In the air, this all happens in about two seconds. After her initial exposure to aerobatics, the time she had spent painting before became consumed: if not by actual flying, then by a brain that couldn't help but dream of being airborne.

Not only that, but trying to decide how her reinvention as a pilot



Lise is ready for take off!

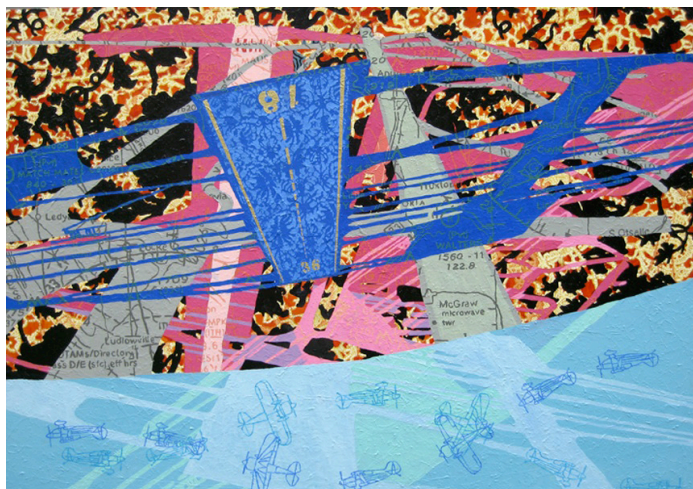
belonged in her existing role as artist was suddenly daunting. Here, intuition took hold. For her, it is a slower process than insight, but no less vital, in which as an artist she discovers how an epiphany can find meaning in her work. Her description of aerobatics, "controlled precision at the edge of the envelope," encapsulates the work she has come to make. Her latest paintings both implicitly and explicitly encompass aerial imagery.

Though aerial perspective influences her work, it rarely manifests in a recognizable form, except for ground maps that appear as one of the many layers in her new paintings. In one, the map of Martha's Vineyard where she first had an insight into flying covers the canvas, among other layers. Other elements she has begun working with include multiple horizons, miniature toy-sized plane outlines that roll barrels and turns loops across the paintings, and in some, the actual commands the pilot must remind themselves while doing these maneuvers. While many artists pilfer antiquated instruction manuals and how-to books for images, Lemeland uses the images of flying techniques from manuals and books she still studies. Several paintings also feature the sky as the bottom half of the composition—a common sight for a pilot, but somewhat stomach-turning for a first time viewer. The visceral reaction one finds in viewing her work can be credited to her impressive artistry, but also to her growing talent as an aerobat.

Seeing how intensely she has transitioned into her most recent art, it is hard to think that flying might be anything but a wonderful gift. But then one remembers the passion that sent her up in the air. She says, "It is a double-edged sword. I go crazy when I can't go up. My art is so wrapped up in it. If I haven't flown in a while, I need to go up so I can remember what I am painting about!" She also weighs the dangers of having such a risky passion, and sometimes wonders why it had to be aerobatics that spoke to her over all else. This is all without even touching on the high price of getting airborne.

But as an artist, she considers flying the second biggest gift of her career. The first, of course, was discovering that she was an artist.

Lemeland is also the author of an excellent three-part article series on aerobatics for Sport Aerobatics Magazine, the third of which focuses on her role as one of two women in a fifty-person aerobatics competition. All three can all be found here for free: <http://executiveflyers.com/2010/03/02/sport-aerobatics-article/> ●



Aileron Roll, 45" x 60", oil on panel, 2009 by Lise Lemeland



# True Beauty in America's Youth

BY ALI GARCIA

I glanced at the cover of *Teen* magazine while at my friend's suite and peered down at silly headlines such as "What's your kissing style?" and a photo of a whimsical teenage couple smiling up at me. My friend caught sight of the cover and asked, "Do they have any stories on teens in the Olympics?" I responded, "No, that would be worth reading." I flipped to the end of the magazine and saw that this issue was from the year 2003. Then I pulled up the website and saw a more current version of *Teen* magazine. Even worse. It has a similar couple but the girls dressed in preteen girl-next-door clothing have been replaced by women in revealing high fashion ensembles.

Not all girls read these magazines, however. I was a tomboy who refused to wear dresses for the better portion of my life. I was burning ants with a magnifying glass, roller-blading, and setting leaves on fire when little girls elsewhere were playing house and dressing Barbies. When preteens were getting dolled-up and applying make-up, I was playing basketball with smelly boys from the gym and my one girl friend Marisol. Trying to relate to the girls who played dress-up and read teen magazines seemed odd, and I often came off as insulting or sardonic when I talked about feminine things. They seemed so unappealing and even now and it is a mystery to me why girls would choose tutus over mud pies. I can't help but wonder, though. What makes these girls fawn over magazines like *Teen*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Glamour*?

After asking a few of my peers, I realized that it was because they felt as if they were getting a sneak peak into what it was like to date boys, kiss, and see what the older, cool kids were doing. They were emerging into a new phase of their lives and getting their information about womanhood through magazines and friends. But what type of messages were the magazines giving? Looking back it's blatantly obvious. A magazine's number one goal, as with any business, is increasing capital, and its priority is to sell its product. With these intentions in mind it's easy to understand how girls' and eventually young women's preconceptions of what it means to be a woman are at the mercy of paid advertisements in magazines.

An advertisement for DKNY "Be Delicious" perfume, for example, shows a woman, her mouth slightly ajar with the focal point at her parted lips. Her finger lightly grazes her plump lips and her hand clasps a juicy green apple. Her eyes and moist lips accentuate the steamy atmosphere.

With her thin cheekbones and coy gaze she uses sex appeal to sell the product. She gives a sexualized image of the ideal woman. The ideal woman is "delicious." Undoubtedly, the woman is beautiful. Men would become infatuated with only a glimpse. But young female readers will inevitably compare themselves to her. The catch is that she has been airbrushed and made-up, her features altered through Photoshop. She is not realistic and doesn't project an attainable ideal, putting girls searching for their identity as women and shaping their idea of beauty in a losing battle. Her look is unattainable and has girls in search of an unrealistic image.

A commercial by Dove, Evolution, shows the length advertisers go in altering a woman's image. The ad, part of Dove's Self Esteem campaign, takes the viewer through the intensive process of turning an average looking woman into a billboard advertisement. After an exhaustive make-up and hair session she does her photo shoot. Then the photos are loaded into Photoshop because her image still isn't up to their beauty standard. They make her face more symmetrical, plump her lips, thin her jaw line, enlarge her eyes, and alter her cheek bones. Through a sick process they twist and wring a woman all in the name of gaining profit.

Fortunately, not all magazines have these same portrayals of women and girls. Mostly I read books, but when I did want a magazine, I leafed through *US Lacrosse*. It's a magazine sent to all registered lacrosse players and officials in the United States. It shows boys and girls, men and women, playing lacrosse all over the nation and other countries. Flipping through the pages, sometimes I'll see photos of my friends playing in lacrosse tournaments. It shows healthy athletes of different sexes and ages alike participating in the sport we love. The clear priority is love of the game and promoting the sport's growth along with happy and healthy attitudes for today's youth – and that is true beauty. ●



# International News

SWEDEN



Researchers in Sweden noted that 39% of Swedish women (and only 8% of Swedish men) reported having sexual fantasies about both genders. Young Swedes, particularly women, appear to have more fluid definitions of sexuality and sex than the generations that immediately preceded them.

[www.upi.com/](http://www.upi.com/)

KENYA



In Kenya, a new charity has begun to give away free kits containing washable sanitary pads, underwear and soap to young female students, in an attempt to cut back on school absenteeism. Many schoolgirls from poor families stay home up to five days each month when they have their period due to having inadequate or no supplies to take care of themselves during this time.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

GHANA



In Ghana, many women have taken part in a huge migration, moving from the Muslim north to Christian cities in the south of the state. Some take this difficult and dangerous journey in order to escape arranged marriages, while others seek job opportunities.

[pulitzercenter.org](http://pulitzercenter.org)

USA



In the battle for health reform, nearly one in four women go without health insurance (as of 2007, 15% of all women in NY state alone), partly because women are still less likely than men to hold a full-time job (52% versus 73% of men), yet only 40% of women consider health reform a top priority according to a recent Kaiser Poll.

[www.kff.com](http://www.kff.com), [www.nwlc.org](http://www.nwlc.org)

SPAIN



At the end of February, The Spanish Parliament approved legislation that will ease women's access to abortion up to the 14th week of pregnancy. Since 1985, abortion has been legal up to 12 weeks in cases of rape and up to 22 weeks if the mother's health is at serious risk. Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who is a self-described feminist, says the revised law will repay a "debt" owed to Spanish women.

[www.msmagazine.com](http://www.msmagazine.com)

CANADA



Women were barred from ski jumping in the 2010 winter Olympics in Vancouver, so 15 women brought the case to the Supreme Court of Canada, which ruled against them. Women are, however, allowed to be forerunners to the event, and test out the hills before men compete on them. On public radio, the president of the International Ski Federation said that ski jumping "seems not to be appropriate for ladies from a medical point of view."

[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

INDIA



After being unofficially disbanded for a number of years, India's women's soccer team has recently been brought together again to compete in the FIFA world cup.

[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

Bollywood entertainment company Pearls Broadcasting Corporations Ltd. established a women's rights platform, Pearls Wave Trust. The activities of the star-studded program focus on the prevention of harassment and domestic violence.

[www.thaindian.com](http://www.thaindian.com)



# We Know Women Need Health Reform, So Why All the Fighting?

BY MIKENNA PIEROTTI

One out of every four women delays or does not receive the medical care she needs because she cannot afford it, according to a 2005 study by the Kaiser Foundation. Many such frightening statistics are floating around in cyberspace as the debate over health care reform continues. The fact that the uninsured rate for women of childbearing age (15-44) is greater than for any other group under age 65 is, according to the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, “the sad and alarming reality.” Another sad reality is that groups such as Concerned Women for America, a conservative blog site promoting “limited government and strong families,” are using the same scare tactics as the conservative male politicians who stand to benefit the most from keeping government regulation out of health care. After all, there’s money involved. A lot of money. In a 2009 study by The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States was found to spend 16% of its gross national product on health care, nearly twice that of the 29 other OECD countries studied, and yet our average life expectancy is lower.

The members of CWFA and many other conservative groups never mention such statistics. For them the threat is “Obamacare”—the “government takeover” that will turn our lives over to “faceless bureaucrats.” Sadly, hyper-paranoid language isn’t the only thing they are spreading. They also publicize statistics from questionable sources to support their positions. Claiming that a poll commissioned by the Independent Women’s Forum found that less than 20% of “America’s women” believe that health care should be a top priority, they failed to mention that this “independent forum” is actually another conservative women’s blog. The poll finds that 45% of women “are concerned about the mountain of debt that will burden their children and grandchildren” as a result of reform. They neglect to mention that many children might never be born, or will lose their mothers in childbirth simply because our past health care system allows private insurers to legally reject pregnant women because pregnancy is considered a “pre-existing condition.”

Lack of regulation contributes to the U.S.’s appallingly high infant mortality rates. 15% of American women receive no prenatal care in their first trimesters, while others must earn less money in

order to qualify for Medicaid (a government-run health care system that actually does offer prenatal care). Countless other women are lured into insurance traps. According to *The Nation* in 2009, two companies, Affordable Health Care Options and Ameriplan, both advertised on PregnancyInsurance.org, specifically target pregnant women by advertising coverage but ultimately denying the needed services.

Ameriplan claims that seven in ten uninsured or under-insured Americans are “the opportunity of a lifetime!” This marketing company sets up work-from-home businesses using pregnant, formerly uninsured women to market “discount medical plans” to other uninsured pregnant women. AHCO was recently sued by the Texas Attorney General for selling a “Maternity Card” that claims to cover doctor’s visits, sonograms, and prescriptions but actually covers none of those things.

What the current reform bill will do is forbid legitimate insurers from denying coverage because of pre-existing conditions (including pregnancy). It will also expand coverage to non-dependent children (up to age 26) under their parents’ plans. According to The Huffington Post, however, the current bill will not outlaw the practice of “gender rating,” used by insurance companies to charge the genders differently. The bill will cover abortion but only in cases of rape, incest, or danger to the mother. It also lacks a “public option” that would allow anyone coverage under a government run plan. However, Medicaid could now cover families with income exceeding the federal poverty level and businesses with over 50 employees must provide insurance or face penalties. Individuals and families able to afford insurance will face fines if they do not comply. Of course if health reform is not subsidized by the government, laws will never be enough. Many men and women will still be unable to cover all their medical expenses and small businesses will be unable to pay for insurance and offer decent wages. To address this, much of the bill’s cost will be spent in financial assistance and incentives to families and businesses.

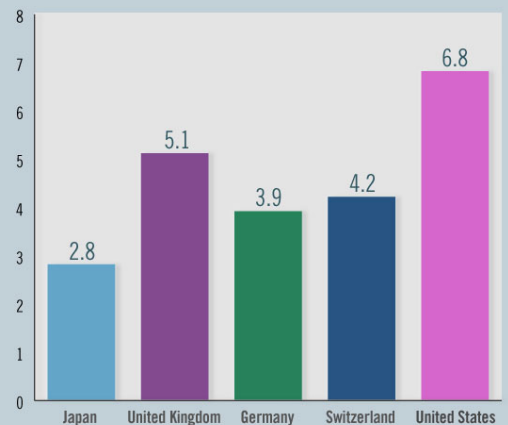
Although the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was signed by President Obama on March 24th amid a festive ceremony, the debate rages on. The argument has split violently along party lines and vicious words are flying.

Whether or not this bill will achieve all we as a nation need it to we can no longer deny that something had to be done.

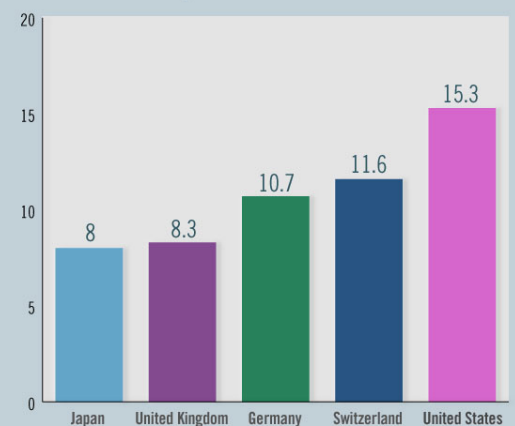
This is the most expansive social legislation signed in decades and if, as President Obama stated, “we are not a nation that scales back its aspirations,” we must stand up and demand that this be only the first step. If women continue to fight change, to buy into the scare tactics and to ignore the issues, we will leave our children with a legacy of indifference. ●

For more information on how the bill could affect you visit: <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/03/24/us/politics/20100319-health-care-effect.htm#tab=0>.

Infant Mortality  
(Deaths per 1000 Live Births)



Percentage of Gross Domestic Production  
Spent on Health Care



Sources: [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com), [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), [www.kff.com](http://www.kff.com), [www.cwfa.org](http://www.cwfa.org), [www.ontheissues.org](http://www.ontheissues.org), <http://www.pbs.org/gbh/pages/frontline/sick-aroundtheworld/countries/models.htm>, [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org), <http://www.thenation.com/>

# From The Archives...

Special thanks to University Archivist Laurie McFadden for sharing our feminist history.

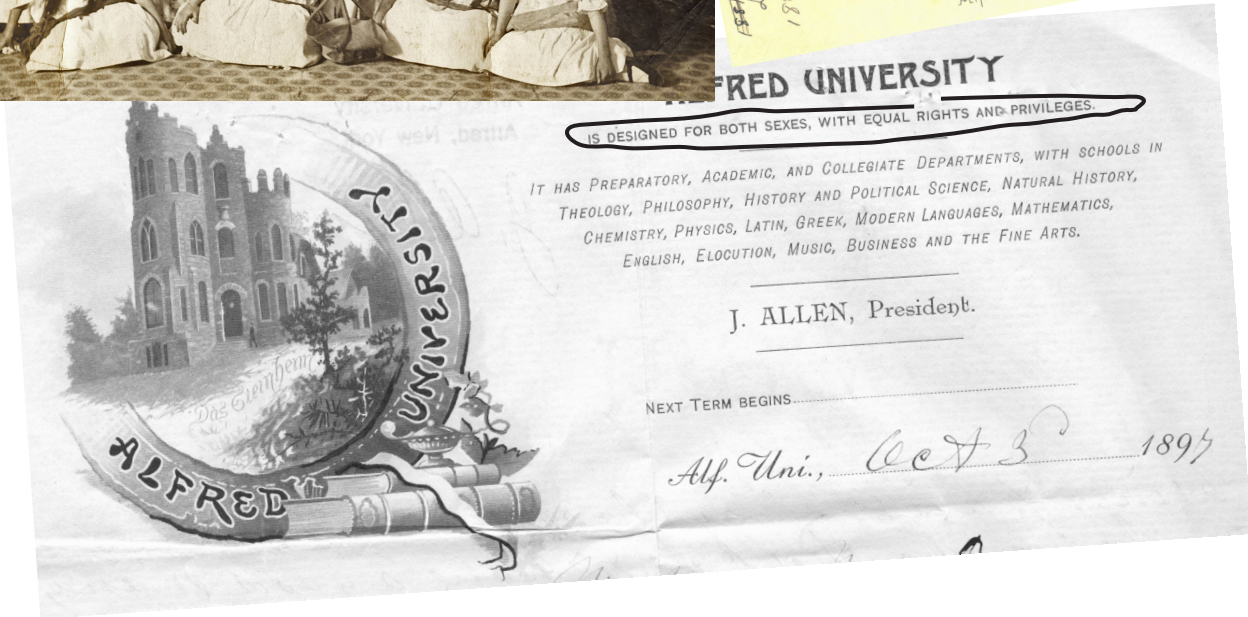


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Societies -  
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Alphadelphian  
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*"Be radical, radical to the core."*  
-Abigail Allen