

AU students, faculty to attend national journalists conference

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A contingent of Alfred University students, accompanied by Dr. Robyn Goodman, associate professor of communications, will participate in the annual National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association conference, "Out in the Spotlight" to be held at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 10-14. The Association, which is headed by Executive Director Pamela Strother, a member of AU's Class of 1991, "is an organization of journalists, online media professionals and student that works from within the journalism industry to foster fair and accurate coverage of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. NLGJA opposes workplace bias against all minorities and provides professional development for its members." Journalism students from around the country compete for internships to attend the conference, and to work, side-by-side with professional print and broadcast journalists, to cover the event for the national media. The internship awards that two AU students won this year, includes round-trip airfare to and from Los Angeles; hotel accommodations; convention registration; and some meals. "The internships are a wonderful opportunity for our students to attend a national conference, and to work with professional journalists," said Goodman. For Elizabeth Greenwood, a senior communications major from Pelham, NH, this will be her second year attending the conference as a participant in the Student Video Project, writing, editing and producing segments for daily broadcast. "I will join 17 other students from across the country to provide news coverage for more than 500 NGLJA members who are expected to attend the conference," said Greenwood, who will be working this year with mentors from ABC News to craft broadcast coverage. Video feeds from the conference will be accessible from the NLGJA website, <http://www.nglja.org> "Last year's experience was so amazing," said Greenwood. "I learned so much about professional broadcasting, and got a taste of what real reporting is like. The chance to work with professionals in the field (one of our advisors was a producer for CBS's The Early Show) was incredible. I made lots of great contacts may help me if I decide to pursue a career in broadcast journalism, and was able to apply my new skills to my reporting at AUTV here on campus." Greenwood is a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and is a daughter of Charles and Nancy Greenwood of Pelham, NH. Goodman, who will be attending the conference for the third time, will be a member of a panel discussing "Hope and Glory: Your Journalism Career's First Five Years," which will address issues such as how to network; how to initiate conversations with editors about pay raises, promotions and career-planning; how, or when, to "come out" professionally; how to be recognized as an important voice in the newsroom and how to be a resource on gay issues - without being pigeonholed as the gay reporter. The panel will also help newsroom managers better understand the distinct challenges some gay journalists will face. Moderator for the panel will be Steven Gray, a Washington Post reporter. Members, in addition to Goodman, will be Jamie Guirola, a reporter for WTVH-TV; Bryan Cox, a producer for NorthWest Cable News; and Efrain Hernandez Jr., director of METPRO at the Los Angeles Times. Goodman will also be participating in diversity-training workshops with a number of nationally known journalists. "The conference is very special for us since its executive director, Pamela Strother, is an AU alumna and a recent winner of the Abigail Allen Award, " presented annually by the Women's Studies Program to an alumnus or alumna who advances awareness of women's issues, said Goodman. Another AU alumna, Angie Young, a member of the class of 2002, is administrative assistant for the NGLJA, which is based in Washington, DC. Another AU alumnus, Sebastian White, who graduated last May, will also be attending the conference as a member.