

The Alphadelphian

The Newsletter of the Alfred University Women's Studies Program

Riley Lecture: The "Double Whammy" of Being a Black Woman

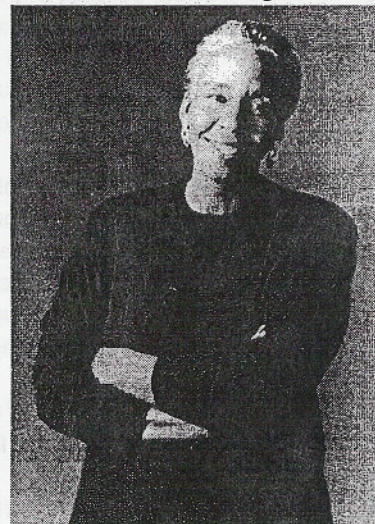
"My intent is to provoke people to action," said Jill Nelson about her upcoming Riley Lecture.

Nelson's goal is to "make society a safe place in all the ways we can define safe" because "no one's leaving America, so we'd better figure out how to live through this." She calls for "solutions and resolutions" because our society's racism and misogyny "doesn't serve any of us well, even the men."

Nelson calls herself "a solution-oriented person and speaker" and hopes to "be a catalyst" by provoking the audience to action through facts, personal experiences, political activism and humor.

She believes that what she has to say is "resonant for all women, not only women of color, and all men who are sensitive or who want to be sensitized."

In her Riley Lecture, Nelson will discuss the
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Above: Jill Nelson, fourth annual Riley Lecturer

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The Herstory of Leadership at Alfred University

Graduate student Jen DeCicco's interest in the history of Alfred University and her participation in the College Student Development Program have prompted her thesis topic: the evolution of women's clubs, organizations, athletics and women's leadership opportunities at AU from the University's founding as a Select School in 1836.

She plans to outline Abigail Allen's influence on the social climate in Alfred today.

Working with the Alumni Office, DeCicco will prepare a questionnaire to be sent to former Alfred

University women students. She hopes that personal experiences of alumni will enhance her presentation.

One way to trace leadership opportunities for women in AU history is to follow the progression of women students in recognized athletics. At first, women acted only as cheerleaders, then gradually, they initiated intramural sports.

In the late 1800s women students started a softball team, called the Hall Damsels. The Hall Damsels played against women in the local Alfred community called the Vil-
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Girl Scouts are Tough Cookies

My mother was a Girl Scout, so were my aunts, my older sister, my cousins and my younger sister. My mother has recently rejoined as an adult Girl Scout.

As a kid, I packed up my sleeping bag, toothbrush and a million other things I thought I couldn't live without, and for five summers went to the same Girl Scout camp my mother and aunt had as girls.

Therefore, I thought that working at a Girl Scout camp would be like having a paid internship, some field experience in Women's Studies and a

bit of money.

Camping offers girls a broad range of activities which addresses both their current level of interest and their future roles as women. Activities often stimulate self-discovery. Girls grow in skill and self-confidence, and so do their leaders.

At Camp Timbercrest, a wide range of campers, diverse in age, background, personality and expectation work together to create their own excitement. The common thread among them -- counselors and campers -- is an understanding that all are developing
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From the Editor of the Alphadelphian

Welcome to the Spring 1999 issue of the Alphadelphian.

I have learned so much in this last year as editor of this newsletter about the Women's Studies program and about the people in it. I've also learned how much time putting together an eight page newsletter actually takes.

I am proud of the growing success of this newsletter in its second year. I believe the Alphadelphian will continue to grow with the nurturing of this supportive department.

As this year is coming to a close, I now understand Megan Allen's excitement last year when I decided to be this year's editor.

I would like to see the Alphadelphian continue next year not only because of the efforts I have contributed, but because this newsletter is important in informing the Women's Studies faculty and students of each other's recent research and activities, recruiting new Women's Studies minors, and keeping in touch with Women's Studies departments at other universities.

If you are interested in being the editor of the Alphadelphian next year please contact Dr. Hoover and feel free to ask me any questions.

I would like to thank Megan Allen, without whom there would be no Alphadelphian. Megan's shoes were not an easy pair to fill, but her suggestions and advice were a great help and spring board. I appreciate Megan's enthusiasm about this year's issues and her willingness to tell me that her editorship was not without mistakes and headaches, also.

Thank you to Sharon Hoover, my independent study advisor, who held my hand through learning APA style and the differences between literary and journalistic writing.

Karen Porter always had folders of information waiting for me at our meetings, without which I never would have been able to gather the information for the department sections of the newsletter. Thank you for recommending me for this position; I am glad you talked me into it.

Julie Clough not only had to live with me during my deadline stress, but also was the photographer for the Fall 1998 issue and a great help with layout.

-Cariann Colman

From the Director of the Women's Studies Program

As many of you know, my term as Director of the Women's Studies Program comes to an end this June. Susan Morehouse, associate professor of English, has been named the next Director and will take over these administrative duties on July 1. I am delighted that the program will be left to flourish in such capable hands.

Since assuming the Directorship in January of 1995, I have seen the program gain visibility and strength throughout the University: our monthly Round Tables continue to provide a popular forum to advance the discussion of contemporary feminist issues; in the spring of 1996, the program inaugurated the annual Riley Lectureship in Women's Studies, endowed by Patricia, Pamela and Melissa Riley as a tribute to the feminist values of their parents; the *Alphadelphian*, a newsletter established in the fall of 1997, remains a significant vehicle for informing the public about events and activities as well as a place to discuss ideas relevant to Women's Studies; and this spring the program will name its first Abigail Allen Award recipients in honor of the individuals in our community whose work best exemplifies the spirit of one of AU's greatest founding mothers.

All this is to suggest that the Women's Studies Program not only continues to have a growing presence on campus, but that its presence could not be possible without the hard work, dedication and cooperation of our students, alumni, faculty, staff and administrators.

Although limited space prevents me from thanking all of them by name, let me acknowledge the Women's Studies Faculty for their efforts which take them beyond the obligations of their respective departments and divisions.

Their willingness to offer provocative courses, team teach, guest lecture, supervise fieldwork and independent studies, serve on honors thesis committees, work with student groups and mentor junior faculty has brought an academic caliber to our program we can all be proud of.

Of course, the program could not be realized without the students who comprise it. The number of minors (currently a dozen) has been climbing over the years, and I'm convinced our efforts have brought us some of the brightest, most engaging students in the university.

My time as Director has been richly rewarding. I look forward to working closely with the program in the future. I'm honored to count myself as part of such a vital community at Alfred.

-Karen L. Porter

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The Women's Studies Program would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to Cariann Colman, this year's editor of the *Alphadelphian*. Cariann, a senior Women's Studies minor, has done a terrific job in designing, writing, researching and editing the Fall '98 and Spring '99 editions. She deserves our praise. As Cariann is graduating this spring, we're searching for her replacement. Anyone interested in working on next year's newsletter should write to Cariann on email at COLMANCM (before graduation!) or see Dr. Sharon Hoover in the English Department.

Sexy Competition in the Walt Disney World College Program

"Congratulations! You have been selected to participate in the living, learning and earning experience of the Walt Disney World College Program." I was flattered to be "selected" for such a highly touted program.

What I did not know then was that the "selection" would introduce me to Disney's little-known and over-rated horniest place on earth -- a competitive breeding ground.

By day, at work, most women wore skirts that covered their knees (at least) and shirts that buttoned to the neck. They complied with the

restrictions on jewelry, make-up and hair styles. Men wore plain ties, belts, suspenders and had absolutely no facial hair.

By night, however, we were Generation X at its partying best. Women wore tight, short clothes, plunging necklines and wild hair and make-up and fought -- sometimes literally -- over the men so that they would have someone to go home with at the end of the night.

The ratio of men to women in the C.P. is extremely unbalanced, somewhere near one man for every six to eight women, and many of the

men are homosexual. The only thing competitive about the Disney program appears to be the competition between the women who want the man, and the woman who gets him. While they reveled in this attention, the men often boasted of their girlfriends back home.

Now that my Disney "internship" is over, I am able to be a little more objective than I was while participating in it. I learned that I like challenges in the classroom and the work place, but not in the dating game.

-Heather Kool

Riley Lecture, continued

"challenges and strategies in a hostile environment to forming a positive identity."

Nelson denounces the "emphasis on the negative roles hoisted onto women of color and women in general" by our society.

Nelson is an educator, activist and writer. She teaches journalism at the City College of New York.

Nelson was involved in organizing the recent protests against the killing of an immigrant by New York City police.

She has been published in *Essence*, *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *USA Weekend* and *The Village Voice*. Nelson is a columnist for *MSNBC Online* and a contributing editor for *USA Weekend*.

She has written a memoir about her work at the Washington Post titled, "Volunteer Slavery: My Authentic Negro Experience."

"Straight, No Chaser: How I Became a Grown-up Black Woman," Nelson's recently published second book, is a personal essay in which she discusses the significance of being a member of both a marginalized ethnicity and gender. African American women have been ignored in the Women's Movement and overlooked in the African American political agenda due to their minority "double whammy," Nelson said.

Nelson's lecture, "Mammy No Mo': Women of Color Creating Positive Identity in a Hostile Culture," will be delivered on April 19 at 4:30pm in Susan Howell Hall.

-Cariann Colman

Spring Semester Women's Studies Round Tables

Feb. 19: In "Working Women in Indonesia," Nadine Hoover, an international consultant, working primarily in education and social sciences, explained the importance of the roles women play in the informal sectors throughout Indonesia -- as the keepers of traditional trade, market places and domestic economy. The position of women in the formal sector varies widely from area to area for hundreds of tribal groups are still strong in this huge country. Hoover gave examples from four major tribal areas, showing the differing restrictions on women and the way those play out in community politics.

March 19: In "Before Women Were Human Beings," Sandra Singer discussed her research findings about the history of North American women who studied at German-speaking universities at the turn of the last century.

April 16: The graduating Women's Studies minors presented their independent study projects:

- Cariann Colman edited and contributed to the *Alphadelphian*
- Marie Lowell interned at ACCORD and interviewed victims of domestic violence.
- Tirsia Nieves studied abroad in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Cuba.

Winners of the Abigail Allen Award

This year the Women's Studies Program created the Abigail Allen Award to honor faculty/staff members and students/alumni for exceptional contributions to the Alfred University Women's Studies community. (Student recipients must have junior or senior status and be in good academic standing.)

This award honors Abigail Allen's dedication to coeducation and her work in encouraging women to pursue higher education.

Members of the Women's Studies community were asked to nominate women and men they believed to uphold Abigail Allen's substantial contributions to improving the quality of women's lives on our campus and in the wider community.

Faculty member Carol Burdick and alumni Megan Allen were chosen from the nominees by a selection committee made up of faculty, staff and students.

Carol Burdick, assistant professor of English, was cited by nominators as a supportive, caring and nurturing person.

She has contributed in many different ways to the Women's Studies community throughout her years at Alfred as a teacher, counselor, writer, poet and steadfast friend.

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Before Women Were Human Beings

"What did they [American women] hope to find at German-speaking universities in Europe in the late 1800s?" Sandra Singer, assistant professor of German, said the answer was a better education.

The fight to pursue their education was often arduous. Women who attended these universities were "at the mercy of the male professors." They had to receive permission from the professors to attend lectures and to take tests. Many professors felt it was unnatural for women to be educated.

Two sisters, Edith and Alice Hamilton, traveled to Europe to study at the University of Munich. Each had a fairly good experience, but they had setbacks. Edith, who wanted to study theology, could attend lectures, but was forced to sit at the front of the lecture hall next

to her male professor facing the male students.

Alice Hamilton, interested in the sciences, was able to use the labs, but because she was female, her professor assumed she did not want to conduct experiments with animals. Thus, she was unable to participate in exciting studies.

Numerous women attended University of Zurich, most for its medical school program, although many had already obtained a medical degree in the United States. Zurich was, as Singer explained, a fairly "liberal" college in regards to women. It had never had a tradition barring women from the university; therefore, many women found they had equal advantages with the young men. In the United States, women received a substandard education.

These women played a "key role to opening the doors . . ." for other foreign women to attend these institutions and to receive an education in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

-Christa Nyman

Herstory of Leadership, continued

lage Maidens. This initiated recognized women's sports on campus.

Allen started the first Lyceum group on campus, called the Alphadelphian Literary Society. Lyceums sponsored visiting lecturers and debates, and they provided social and extracurricular opportunities for students.

In 1875, the Alphadelphian Literary Society simulated a mock debate set in the year 2000. The premise was that because of their greed and corruption in politics, men had lost the privilege to vote. Instead, men were responsible for manual labor, housework and cooking, while women were responsible for politics. In the forum, women students had to decide whether or not to allow men the right to vote again. This mock trial was designed to exemplify just how ridiculous excluding women from the right to vote was.

DeCicco says that Allen was an "amazing woman" who was not only the wife of President Jonathan Allen, or a teacher of art and geology, but a consistent source of support for women students on campus. Continuing with the three main goals of the Seventh Day Baptists, who founded AU, Allen helped to encourage education, activism and reform through her involvement as an abolitionist and a suffragist.

Jen DeCicco presented her thesis on April 10 at the Women's Leadership Conference co-sponsored by W.I.C. and the AU chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society.

-Courtney Fleming

Fall 1999 - Women's Studies Course Offerings

WST 204 001 B Art of the Personal Essay, C. Burdick, 2 credits

An examination of the best contemporary essayists. Students develop their own essays after reading and discussing these works.

WST 260 001 Writing Women's Lives (A), S. Morehouse, 4 credits
This is a course in autobiographical writing by women. Often described as the most democratic of genres, autobiographical studies allow us to interrogate questions and postures concerning identity through primary source documents. Reading material may include journals, poetry, letters and memoir as well as autobiographical novels.

WST 305 001 Psychology of Women, G. Walker, 3 credits
A survey of the psychological, biological, social and life-span development differences and similarities of the genders. Specific objectives include examination of areas such as socialization, female

identity and personality, issues of special interest to women and psychological health.

WST 308 001 Women Writers in the Middle Ages, F. Tolhurst, 4 credits

This course examines the writings of medieval women -- abbesses, merchants, wives, mothers, and mystics -- to explore the challenges female writers such as Heloise, Margery Kempe, Julian of Norwich, and Christine de Pizan presented to orthodox Christianity, to gender stereotypes and to medieval political and social structures.

WST 377 001 Women in Art, M. Anderson, 3 credits

The course considers various gender issues in art history including the role of women artists in western and nonwestern cultures, feminist reevaluation of art history, and the existence of 'feminine art.' Students are assigned research papers or oral reports on topics generated by readings, lectures, and class discussions.

Louise Michel: A Revolutionary Playwright

"Louise Michel combines dynamite and discourse to shake social pillars in order to create rebels," stated Cecilia Beach about the late nineteenth-century anarchist and playwright.

In the March 4 Bergren Forum "Louise Michel: Staging the Revolution," Beach, assistant professor of French, analyzed the connection between Louise Michel's political and literary activities.

Michel, born in 1830, became an active writer and revolutionary during her youth.

She corresponded with and sent her plays and poems to Victor Hugo.

As a young woman, Michel was barred from teaching in the public school system because she refused to swear allegiance to the Second Empire, so she moved to Paris to teach in a private girls school.

In Paris, Michel joined "a feminist association which defended the political rights of women in reaction against a highly misogynist trend inspired by Pierre Proudhon within the socialist movement," Beach said.

Also, as a member of the socialist movement, Michel emerged as the woman most involved and recognized as a leader in the Paris Commune. Known as the Red Virgin, "Michel stayed single throughout her life, dedicating herself to the revolution."

When Paris was seized by the Prussians in 1870, Michel showed her political involvement by marching in many protest demonstrations. Michel also demonstrated her commitment to society by organizing ambulances and medical units, and forming a Vigilance Committee to provide relief for the poor.

Michel participated in a demonstration of women who demanded the right to enlist in the armed forces, Beach told the audience. Later, dressed in men's clothes,

Michel joined a march on the Town Hall with the National Guard and "according to witnesses of the event, she used [a gun] when the army defending the Town Hall were given orders to fire on the crowd."

For her political activities during the Commune uprising, Michel was arrested and sentenced to exile in New Caledonia for seven years where she "spent a lot of time with the indigenous people, the Canaques; she gave them classes, teaching them enough French to challenge the authorities," Beach said. Michel returned to Paris in 1880 when amnesty was given to the Communards.

Michel, though best known as a revolutionary, wrote three full-length plays. "Nadine," "Le Coq Rouge" (The Red Cockerel) and "La Greve" (The Strike) were performed in Paris between 1882 and 1890.

Though all three plays were edited by the censorship bureau, they were still "grand spectacles with major crowd scenes, riots, cities burning, gun shots and explosions."

Beach explained that as the revolutionary intensity of the plays increased so did the audience's participation.

During a 1882 performance of Michel's first full-length play, "Nadine," "the anarchists in the audience actually began attacking the bourgeois with various projectiles, crying 'Vive le petrole!' (Long live Petroleum), thus making explicit the link to the Commune and its legendary "Petroleuses" -- the name given to women, like Louise Michel, who had allegedly burnt down many buildings in Paris during the insurrection," Beach said.

Shortly after the performance of "Nadine," Michel was arrested for participating in a Paris demonstration and sentenced to prison for six years. She was liberated in 1886.

In 1890, Michel sought refuge in

London joining many other exiled anarchists. Her play "L'Ogre" was performed at the Autonomic, an anarchist club, until it was banned and the actors arrested.

Later in London, Michel opened The International School using a Mikhail Bakunin quote about the anarchist theory on integral education for its prospectus. Students were "taught the importance of freedom, creativity and solidarity; they were taught to abhor authority."

Beach said, "Michel's plays were not intended so much to instruct as to provoke an immediate experience, a social catharsis that would ideally make rebels."

"On stage, her proselytism reproduced the anarchist tactic of propaganda by the word, and propaganda by the deed, discourse and dynamite," Beach said.

Louise Michel "is the only woman in history to have a Metro station named after her in metropolitan Paris."

-Cariann Colman

Tough Cookies, continued leadership skills.

Established in 1912, Girl Scouts of the United States is the largest voluntary organization for girls in the world. It is open to girls ages six through seventeen who "subscribe to its ideals." It is part of a worldwide family of girl and adults in over 100 countries through its membership in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

I was once told by a professor, "no boy would ever want to be in Girl Scouts because *no one* really wants to be in Girl Scouts." This comment is unfair because of the opportunities girls' clubs provide for young women.

Learning and developing leadership, teamwork, communication, organization and problem solving skills benefit women of any age. Organizations for young girls, such as Girl Scouts, offer society more than \$3 boxes of cookies.

-Heather Kool

Writer, Teacher, Mentor

Carol Burdick, or C.B., as she prefers to be called, at 70 is as full of energy and life as any of the students she teaches at Alfred University. In May, she will be retiring as assistant professor of English. "I love being in the classroom, which is why I don't want to quit cold turkey," says C.B. who plans to teach a class or two for a few more years after she retires.

Burdick also plans to continue writing, which is, she says, "next to my family, closest to my heart." She wrote "Woman Alone" in 1974, after returning to Alfred following her divorce. It remained unpublished until 1989, and in 1998 was reissued in paperback. In the mid-1980 she published "Stop Calling Me Darling!" which she describes as a "literary love affair." It is the published correspondence between her and her editor. She is currently looking for a publisher for the fictionalized autobiography, "Killing Mother," and is working on yet another book.

C.B. grew up in Alfred, in the house that her grandfather built in the late

1800s. She married a fellow student shortly after graduating with a degree in English from Milton College, in Wisconsin, in 1949. She did graduate work at the University of Iowa and the University of Maine at Portland and received her Masters of Science in elementary education from SUNY Geneseo in 1964.

C.B. taught the sixth grade in an elementary school in Hamburg, NY, before moving to Portland, ME. In 1973 Burdick returned to Alfred to the house she had grown up in. For five years she worked as the associate director of development at AU. Unsatisfied with the job, she moved to teach at SUNY Oswego for one year.

C.B. became the director of a writers' and artists' colony on the island of Ossawbaw, off the coast of Georgia, where she stayed for three years.

Returning to AU yet again, Burdick worked as an adjunct professor, until she was hired as a part-time professor. C.B. has received two Excellence in Teaching Awards, an Alumni Faculty Friend Award and an Outstanding

Faculty Leader Award given by the Omicron Delta Kappa Circle.

Her three children and four grandchildren are spread out over the United States. She lives with her dog, Amber, in the hills of Alfred in a house she designed herself six years ago.

Her 80 acres of land, her message in the classroom and the actions she has taken in the past paint a picture of the close relationship C.B. has with nature. Nearly ten years ago, Burdick locked arms with her fellow citizens of the area, and stood in civil disobedience against a proposed nuclear waste site in Allegany County. Their efforts paid off; the state decided not to build the landfill.

With her contagious laugh but straightforward words, C.B. said, "I'm very content in being a feminist and I'm surprised that everyone isn't [one]."

A mother, a feminist, an environmentalist, a poet, a writer and a teacher with an extraordinary ability to touch and to influence her students, Carol Burdick represents the best traditions of AU.

-Nicole Parshall

Faculty News

Cecilia Beach presented a paper, "The Mother(land) in Plays by Maryse Conde," at the French Literature Conference in Columbia, South Carolina.

Carol Burdick is not planning on slowing down after she retires in May. This summer she plans to teach a course on Children's Literature for the education department, and teach writing for the Elderhostel program. Then she will travel in a former student's Subaru Outback to Durango, Colorado, to visit her grandchildren.

In March, **Robyn Goodman** critiqued college newspapers and presented a lecture titled "Trouble-shooting and Interviewing" at the College Media Convention.

In August, Goodman will attend the annual Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication convention as the International Division's Women's Status Officer and the moderator of a panel she created, titled "Women Covering the World: Does Gender Matter?"

Goodman will spend the summer continuing her research on the trials and tribulations facing female foreign correspondents, newspaper coverage of U.S.-China relations and the Bulgarian media.

Vicki Eaklor is enjoying her spring sabbatical, though she is working very hard. In March, she was a panelist for NEH public

media programs.

She recently reviewed "Completely Queer: The Gay and Lesbian Encyclopedia" by Steve Hogan and Lee Hudson for The Lesbian Review of Books. Eaklor also reviewed Kathy Peiss' "Hope in a Jar" for the NWSA Journal.

She is currently working on a book about the formation of America's musical culture and a pamphlet on teaching lesbian and gay history.

Eaklor's summer plans include riding her new bicycle and putting a better roof on the sweat lodge she built last year.

Sharon Hoover has just finished her edited book of reminiscences of Willa Cather which will be published by the University of Nebraska Press.

This is Hoover's last semester as the chair of the Department of English. Next fall she will occupy the Gertz Chair in Writing working on essays about teaching Louise Erdrich's "The Bingo Palace," the Quaker-Baptist relationships in Willa Cather's novels, and community building in several American novels.

Recently, **Pamela Schultz** was offered a publishing contract for her dissertation on analyzing the ways in which adult survivors and perpetrators of child sexual abuse narrate their experiences.

In May, "Balancing the Secrets of Private

Disclosures" will be published in which Schultz contributed a chapter focusing on Megan's Law.

Schultz's summer plans include visiting Ireland, putting her interviews with incarcerated sex offenders into book form, co-facilitating in-prison self-help groups with incarcerated sex offenders and finishing an article that analyzes New York State's Sex Offender Registration Act.

This summer, **Sandra Singer** will return to Germany to finish her research in university archives at Berlin, Gottingen, Marburg and Dresden about North American women who studied at the German-speaking universities between 1868 and 1915.

Fiona Tolhurst's article "The Once and Future Queen: The Development of Guenevere From Geoffrey of Monmouth to Malory," appeared in "The Bibliographical Bulletin of the International Arthurian Society."

Also, Tolhurst edited the 1998 winter Special Issue on Theoretical Approaches to Geoffrey of Monmouth for "Arthuriana," contributing the introduction, "Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia regum Britannie* and the Critics," and the article "The Britons as Hebrews, Romans, and Normans: Geoffrey of Monmouth's British Epic and Reflections of Empress Matilda."

In Search of a Feminist Guenevere

The progressive nature of feminism is a false conception widely believed in our society. Fiona Tolhurst, assistant professor of English, challenged these false perceptions in her Bergren Forum, "Guen Now Guen Then: Guenevere in Literature and Film," on March 18.

Tolhurst discussed the changing role of the character Guenevere in the many versions of the tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table in medieval literature and contemporary films.

To illustrate the differing character roles of Guenevere, she showed clips of four films that spanned the decades of the 1950s to the 1990s, none of which she believes is a feminist portrayal since "American culture has not progressed that much in terms of images of women since the 1950s, especially concerning issues of women's sexuality."

Guenevere is portrayed with the qualities of the stereotypically perfect woman of the 1950s in the 1953 film "Knights of the Round Table" in which Guenevere suffers for her love for Sir Lancelot instead of acting on her adulterous feelings.

A decade later, Guenevere is portrayed as a sexual aggressor in the film "The Sword of Lancelot." Not only does she want Lancelot,

though she is married to Arthur, but she also "bullies Lancelot into finally responding to her love," Tolhurst said. In this portrayal, Guenevere possesses the power and aggression she lacked in the 1950s version, but "The Sword of Lancelot" is not a feminist film because of its "glorification of sexual love. Guenevere is our heroine because she's having a passionate love affair," Tolhurst said.

In the 1981 film "Excalibur," Guenevere, a minor character, is merely a representation of an Eve figure whose sinful adultery with Lancelot causes the land to become infertile until a male hero repairs the damage by finding the Holy Grail.

Tolhurst said "First Knight," released in 1995, returns to the 1950s traditional role of Guenevere as "a woman who just denies herself any sexuality at all."

"None of these films suggest the kind of impact of the Women's Movement that I had hoped for," Tolhurst said. The most feminist portrayal of Guenevere is not found in a contemporary version of the Arthurian tales, but in Malory's fifteenth century "The Death of Arthur."

In "The Death of Arthur," Malory merges previous versions of the

Arthurian tales to write what Tolhurst states is "the most interesting version we've had before or since." His portrayal of Guenevere is "the most human and the most interesting," claims Tolhurst.

Tolhurst supports Malory as the author of the most feminist Guenevere, instead of Marion Zimmer Bradley's "The Myths of Avalon," the best known feminist re-writing of the Arthurian tales, since Guenevere is portrayed as weak.

As a medievalist, Tolhurst first became interested in the role of Guenevere in literature and film during her graduate studies dissertation which concentrated on Arthurian Literature. Her interest led to Guenevere's role becoming her current research focus in her recently published the article "The Once and Future Queen: The Development of Guenevere From Geoffrey of Manmouth to Malory" and a teaching focus in her honors class "King Arthur Goes to Hollywood."

Tolhurst acknowledged her "literary foremother," the recently deceased Maureen Fries who was scheduled to be this year's Riley lecturer, by wearing a hat that once belonged to her mentor and friend.

-Cariann Colman

Graduating Minors

Cariann Colman continued Megan Allen's work as editor of the *Alphadelphian* as her Women's Studies independent study and Honors thesis.

As editor, Colman oversaw the contributing writers, wrote articles, compiled the sections of departmental information, proofread, distributed and designed the newsletter.

Her goals were to expand the newsletter's audience and voice by adding articles written by other students and extending the newsletter's focus from strictly about the Women's Studies department, to issues concerning women at AU.

Colman will be attending SUNY

Albany in pursuit of her master and doctoral degrees in order to become a college English professor.

Marie Lowell worked at ACCORD in Belmont and Wellsville assisting in facilitating a women's SAFE group, serving women with physical or mental disabilities who are or have been in situations of domestic violence, for her Women's Studies independent study.

Lowell gathered data for the Annual Consortium on Domestic Violence, wrote press releases and public service announcements, and developed poster ideas for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Safe Haven

Program.

She also wrote a feature piece on domestic violence, for which she interviewed women from the SAFE group and a Victims Impact panel discussion. The article describes typical signs that show how a person may become violent, ways to help someone in an abusive relationship and where victims can find help. Lowell hopes to publish this article in a mainstream magazine or a local newspaper to raise awareness about domestic violence and the services ACCORD provides.

Lowell will live in South Carolina after graduation.