



# The Alphadelphian

The official newsletter of the Women's Studies Program at Alfred University  
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## Alumna lectures on politics of AIDS research

Whatever your role in the lab, high-level medical research is an exciting, terrifying, but almost always fulfilling venture.

This was the message of AU alumna Rose De Carlo Danella '56, who presented the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Charles and Elizabeth Hallenback Riley Lecture in Women's Studies on Apr. 3 in the Powell Campus Center's Knight Club.

Danella's talk, titled "Scientific Discovery: People, Politics, and Pressures," focused on her years as a clinical research specialist at the National Cancer Institute and, eventually, at the Institute of Human Virology. It was there that she supported groundbreaking HIV/AIDS research on a team led by renowned scientist Robert Gallo.

Danella focused much of her talk on the role that her liberal arts education played in preparing her for careers in higher education and,

ultimately, epidemiological research. After graduating *cum laude* in history and political science from AU, she spent time at a public relations firm in

"I emerged a generalist, which in the academic world is being nothing," she joked.

That breadth, however, gave her the opportunity to

1991.

When Danella accompanied her husband to Washington, D.C., where he was taking a new job, but she found her own prospects to be limited.

"I should easily [have gotten] a job in higher education," she said of her sometimes disheartening job search.

She ultimately found herself in line for a position as Deputy Secretary for Higher Education. While she waited to hear if her appointment had gone through, her young neighbor, a doctoral candidate in microbiology, mentioned that William Blattner's epidemiology lab at the National Cancer Institute was looking for help. After a visit to her prospective federal workplace revealed endless rows of cubicles and a seemingly sterile and lifeless environment, Danella took the risk of joining Blattner's team.

"I figured that anything has to be better than this kind of bureaucratic life," she said.

*continued on page 4*



photo by Shaun Latulippe

New York City before pursuing a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies at Syracuse University. The breadth of her graduate work made her good at everything, but an expert in nothing.

immerse herself in the world of higher education, teaching a variety of introductory social science courses in the college classroom, and retiring from Mohawk Valley Community College as Professor Emerita in

## Morehouse, Glotz and Lewin named 2005 Abigail Allen awardees

Last spring, the Women's Studies Program presented Associate Professor of English Susan Morehouse, senior psychology major Beth Glotz and alumna Martha Lewin '65 with the 2005 Abigail Allen Awards.

The Abigail Allen Award is presented annually to the faculty or staff member, student and alumna who contribute to the AU campus and the community by making exceptional efforts to improve the lives of women. The award's namesake, wife of AU's second president, was a vocal advocate for coeducation who dedicated herself to encouraging women to pursue

higher education.

Faculty honoree Morehouse is a former director of the WMST Program. Under her watchful eye, curricular offerings were expanded and female faculty in the sciences were encouraged to participate in WMST-focused teaching and research. She has consistently taught a host of WMST courses, including Women Writers and the WMST foundation course, Women in Society.

Professor of History and 2004 Abigail Allen Award recipient Vicki Eaklor lauded Morehouse for her efforts to have Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*

produced on campus as a joint project of the Division of the Performing Arts and the Women's Issues Coalition. The 2004 production developed under her supervision raised \$3,000 for national and local organizations that work to stop violence against women.

Eaklor noted Morehouse's ongoing commitment to creating a classroom environment "where women's voices matter." These same voices matter at the annual writing conference Morehouse organizes; she strives to bring women writers to campus to share their

*continued on page 2*

# A Message from the Director of WMST

This has been an exciting year for Women's Studies, most notably because of the opening of Alfred's new Women's Leadership Center. Under the leadership of Director Amy Jacobson, the WLC sponsored a number of activities that support the goals of WMST. These events included everything from Conversation Hours and Movie Nights to the Women of Influence Series that brought in faculty and alumnae to speak to students on issues relevant to women and leadership. Among these speakers were Cheryl Sibley-Albold '92, of the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine; Christa Nyman-Christakis '01, a lobbyist for women's health in Albany; Jean Cardinale, Assistant Professor of Biology joined by Rosetta Brown-Greaney, Director of Crandall Health Center; and Hoda Zakareya, an Egyptian women's rights activist and the first Fulbright Scholar in residence at Alfred.

Other WLC initiatives included "Women in the Lead," led by Teri Knopf '88, principal of Knopf Consulting. Teri's three workshops on conflict resolution and time and meeting management were very well attended and earned high compliments from participants. The WLC also sponsored a Good Sense Gourmet dinner, art shows, a silent auction and a trip to Seneca Falls to visit the National Women's Hall of Fame. The WLC also

received a grant from the American Association of University Women to survey Alfred students about their experiences with sexual harassment. The student-run project, under the advisement of Jacobson and Professor of Sociology Karen Porter, has provided leadership opportunities for the undergraduates involved.

Meanwhile, the Women's Issues Coalition continues to play an active role in student life at Alfred. This year, among other things, WIC brought back *The Vagina Monologues* and sponsored a dessert potluck to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina.

This year's Riley Lecture was given by Rose DeCarlo Danel-la '56, of the Institute of Human Virology. She worked directly with Dr. Robert C. Gallo, the co-discoverer of the HIV virus as the cause of AIDS. Her speech, "Scientific Discovery: People, Politics, Pressures," addressed her experiences at the Institute.

Through all of these activities, Alfred continues the work of connecting women's personal, professional and academic lives. All of us involved in WMST are proud to be associated with such strong programs and engaged people.

~Dr. Laura Greyson



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*continued from front page*

perspectives with conference attendees.

As a former advisor of *The Alphasdelphian* and chair on numerous theses and senior projects grounded in feminist theory, Morehouse has worked to shape the individual voices of dozens of female students over the years.

"Susan Morehouse, in her own quiet way, teaches us all to raise our voices in power and pride," Eaklor said.

Student recipient Beth Glotz was recognized for her numerous research projects completed under the auspices of the WMST program, including "Examining the Business World: Feminist Perspectives" under Associate Professor of Business Frances Viggiani. Glotz's analysis of the College of Business at AU determined that a WMST course with a business focus would be beneficial to CoB students.

Glotz's sociological research included a project with Professor of Sociology Karen Porter titled "Media Images: Women, Men, Faces, Bodies" that analyzed treatment of gender in magazine articles, rather than in advertisements, as is common.

Since receiving the Abigail Allen Award, Glotz has been putting her solid research background to use in the

Industrial/Organizational Psychology program at Radford University.

Glotz says that she misses the lively discussions that took place in her WMST classes at AU, remarking that many of her RU classmates were shocked when they were assigned a reading on feminist theory – she ended up leading a study session to introduce her classmates to some central ideas of feminism and women's studies.

Alumna honoree Lewin was recognized for her work as founder and CEO of WomenRising, Inc. The organization, which is run and managed by women, provides social, economic and advocacy services to women and their families. The agency's goal is to help the women of Hudson County, N.J., lead safe, fulfilling and productive lives.

Prior to founding WomenRising, Lewin was president of the Affordable Housing Network of New Jersey.

At Alfred and beyond, there's little doubt that these three women will continue to carry on Abigail Allen's legacy, pushing themselves and those around them to be, in Allen's words, "radical, radical to the core."

~Abby Tripp

# Vibrant, Vigorous Vaginas!

Vaginas can be hairy, smelly, angry and, for some, abused.

*The Vagina Monologues*, an award-winning play by Eve Ensler, celebrates and supports women through presenting personal narratives of sexual self-discovery and experiences with acts of violence.

Ensler conducted over 200 interviews with women about their sexual histories. From these interviews she created *The Vagina Monologues*. The monologues give women a voice that allows them to explore their sexuality, fears, fantasies, anger and insecurities while addressing the very serious issue of violence against women.

A spirited cast of students performed Ensler's monologues at Alfred University on Feb. 12, 13 and 14. Sara Schnick and Hailley Field directed the show and Meg Gray produced it. Proceeds raised from the three-day event, sponsored by the Women's Issues Coalition, were donated to the Elder Abuse Prevention Program at Belmont's ACCORD Corporation and to the V-Day Foundation.

Each monologue related to the vagina in some way, whether through sex, masturbation, rape, menstruation, love or orgasm.

One monologue, titled "The Flood" and performed by Missie Cole, introduced the audience to an older woman reluctant to talk about her "down there."

Once the character opened up, she revealed how she flooded "right through her panties" as a young woman, which then closed her off to any kind of intimacy as an adult.

In the monologue "My Angry

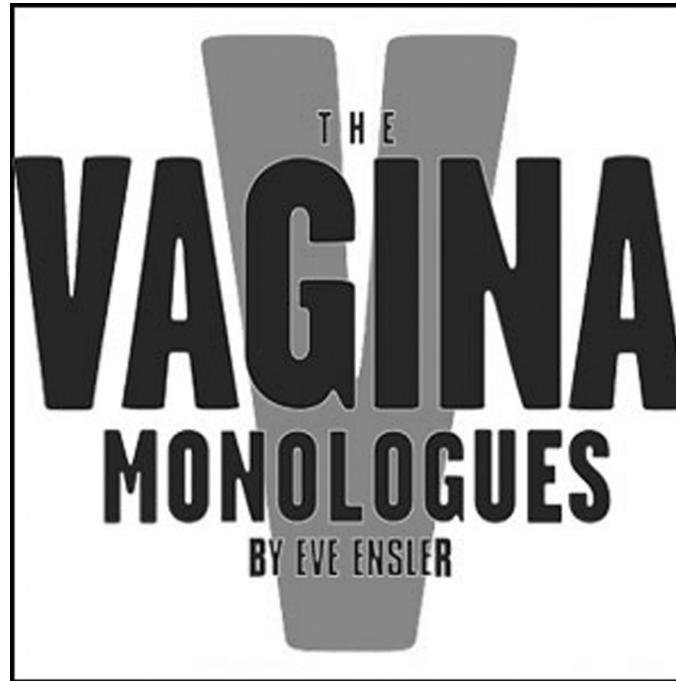
moving pieces. Angie Tsaros performed this monologue about the many young women of Bosnia and Kosovo impacted by violence, war and rape. After being raped by a rifle, a broomstick and six men over a period of seven days, this

non-profit organization V-Day has raised over \$30 million in its eight-year existence. It distributes funds to national and international grassroots programs that help fight violence against women and girls.

The monologue "Say It, For the Comfort Women"—performed by Jennifer Winikus, Laura Packard and Megan Wilson—was part of the V-Day Spotlight 2006: Justice to "Comfort Women." From 1932 to 1945, the Japanese military enslaved women to serve soldiers' sexual desires. These women were known as "comfort women." Victims from Korea, China, Taiwan, North Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Timor L' Este came forward asking for justice in the early 1990s. "Say It" called for an official apology from the Japanese government, which has yet to admit to these war crimes. In support of the "comfort women," the V-Day Spotlight 2006 called for Japan to acknowledge the crime and pay reparations.

*The Vagina Monologues* encourage women to celebrate their bodies, their vaginas and themselves. The monologues are courageous, funny and honest. But more importantly, they give hope to women who have been touched by violence and, with the help of the V-Day movement, they demand an end to abuse.

~ Deen Genzardi



Vagina," Megan Ramsey gave some hilarious yet honest insight into why vaginas have reasons to be angry. Who thought tampons were a good idea? And what about those "duck lips" at the gynecologist? Vaginas don't want to be poked and prodded. They want kisses and kindness and to be "loose and wide" and free.

"My Vagina Was My Village" was one of the show's most

woman's vagina was no longer her home. It instead became a place of death, where "a river of poison" flowed through her.

*The Vagina Monologues* inspired the development of the V-Day Movement. This movement raises awareness about violence against women and girls including battery, rape, incest, sexual slavery and female genital mutilation (FGM). The





# Women's History Month a hit at AU

The Women's History Month celebration at AU this past March started with the Phi Beta Kappa lecture by Deborah Stone of Dartmouth College. Stone came to campus shortly after spring break to present her topic, "The Paradox of Altruism." Students had the opportunity to have lunch with Stone at the Women's Leadership Center, where the topic of conversation was leadership and everyday altruism, specifically how to be an efficient leader while being devoted to the welfare of others.

On St. Patrick's Day weekend, the Women's Leadership Center gave students the opportunity to visit the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls with Alpha Kappa Omicron alumnae. While in Seneca Falls, students had access to a variety of activities, including tours of

the museum, a film and a tour of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's house. Students also lunched with the AKO sisters and shopped at the Waterloo outlet mall.

On March 23, Hoda Zakaraya, Alfred's Fulbright scholar, presented her lecture, "In Egypt, One Woman is Worth 100 Men" as March's Women of Influence speaker. Later in March, the Biology Club and the WLC partnered to show *The Band Played On* as a precursor to the Riley Lecture. Also that week was the WMST Roundtable at which Susan Morehouse, last year's recipient of the Abigail Allen Award, presented "Angel of the City," a creative non-fiction piece about her experiences as a "TMI (Too-Much-Information) Mom" struggling with the questions of when and how to share knowledge with her daughter.

Women's History Month extended into the month of April with the annual Riley Lecture in Women's Studies when AU welcomed back Rose De Carlo Danella '56 for her lecture, "Scientific Discovery: People, Politics, and Pressures," in which she discussed her work with world-famous scientist Robert Gallo. Gallo co-discovered the HIV/AIDS virus and led the so-called "Dream Team" that helped establish the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Danella's lecture also focused on how her AU liberal arts education prepared her for a career in the sciences and how female scientists can survive in a male-dominated field.

~Meg Gray

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Under Blattner, Danella spent much of her time preparing manuscripts, researching at the National Institutes of Health's impressive library, editing, researching, presenting at conferences and evaluating research proposals. She also became an expert in informed consent. The size of Blattner's lab accounted in large part for Danella's massive slate of responsibilities; only nine or 10 people were employed there at any given time.

"It was called the best little epidemiology shop in the world," she said.

When Maryland's governor invited Gallo to found the state-funded Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland's School of Medicine, he asked Blattner to be a part of his "dream team" of HIV/AIDS researchers.

This team had "more knowledge about HIV/AIDS than anyone in the world," Danella said.

Blattner, in turn, asked Danella to accompany him to the new IHV. Despite a brutal commute, she jumped at the chance. "To be in such a rarified environment ... was the chance of a lifetime," she said.

In their new setting on a university campus, the scientists quickly found Danella to be an invaluable resource. "My value ... quadrupled," she said. "I was the liaison" between the IHV and University administration.

Danella spoke at length about the intense atmosphere of the IHV.

"It was intellectually stunning, competitive, sometimes combative and generally stressful," she said.

The stress only multiplied when IHV staffers were face-to-face with Gallo, who proved an imposing presence. "Dr. Gallo was the boss. He was truly the godfather," she said.

Gallo's brilliance and arrogance often made it seem that he *was* the IHV, Danella said. "He was the magnetic center ... the rock star of science."

Danella also spoke briefly about her own work at the lab, where her notable achievements included principal authorship on a paper about adult T-cell leukemia, the managing editorship of the *Journal of Human Virology* and a position as the principal investigator on two research projects in the Bahamas testing the efficacy of a female-focused, youth-centered program created to educate about safe sex and fight the spread of HIV/AIDS and STIs. Another substantial responsibility was fund-raising. "Most of the time that people spent away from the laboratory was spent trying to write grants," she said.

Danella also played a large part in some of the IHV's greatest advances, including taking five concepts from the experimental stage to human testing, garnering 21

patents, and opening five clinics with 4,000 patients in Baltimore alone. The IHV also currently has an HIV vaccine candidate in the early stages of testing; a highly portable, low-cost vaccine with an oral delivery system, it shows great promise as a future weapon in the fight against AIDS.

Danella's revelations concerning the place of women in science and academe were somewhat troubling.

"What I've described is a rarified world of men," she said of the setting of scientific inquiry. "You don't see [women] at the highest levels of science."

While she conceded that "the system favors the elite, white, heterosexual male club," she also attributed women's current positions in the research world to their selected life paths. "A lot depends on the choices that women make," she said, citing the statistic that married women with children are 50 percent less likely to enter tenure-track positions. Advancement in the research world "may cost more than women are able to pay," she said.

Nonetheless, Danella said that her path was the right one for her. "I was committed to a role of service," she said, adding that the last decade of her career was "an unexpected, incredibly exciting and totally transforming experience."

~Abby Tripp

# WLC wins with women's art

This past fall Amy Jacobson, director of the Women's Leadership Center, kicked off the Women's Studies Roundtable series with an introduction to the WLC, its mission and an idea of the programming to be offered during the year. In addition to providing the audience with information about the new WLC, she took suggestions about areas in which specific plans were not in place. One open forum issue concerned student art in the WLC. Jacobson knew that she wanted to exhibit student work in the center but wasn't quite sure how to approach the situation. Audience member Assistant Professor Lise Lemeland suggested having students curate shows at the center.

Instead of having a permanent exhibition, Jacobson decided to create a rotating curatorial internship in order to best utilize the WLC's space and resources. Responsibilities designated for the curator were selecting the work, designing a postcard image, advertising the event, displaying the work, selecting food for the opening reception and take down. The application process included a personal statement, a proposal for use of the space and a recommendation from a faculty member. From several highly motivated applicants at the end of A Block, Jacobson selected senior bachelor of fine arts student Erica Harney to

curate the first show. Harney's show, *What Drives Me*, opened Nov. 18 and featured work by 18 of Alfred University's female student artists. Harney sought the help of professors to nominate hardworking students from their classes to submit work, and her show included photographs, prints and paintings as well as functional and sculptural ceramic pieces.

Jacobson noted that the curator position is a great way to gain experience because it requires both strong organization and communication skills and the ability to handle delicate issues that come with the task of curator, including selection process and display.

Senior art and design student Kaci Smith learned to deal with the politics of bidding when she opted to use the experience as a fund-raiser for Rochester's Alternatives for Battered Women. For Smith the show was a way to combine her interests in art and community service with political activism, something she has had less time for while in college. Her decision to have an auction made obtaining work for show difficult. "I had to constantly change flyers around campus, or just directly ask people for work to put in. I also posted flyers up at other schools to try and raise awareness and get work for

the show," she said. Her perseverance paid off: the exhibit included work from Alfred students and faculty, as well as student work from the Rochester area. The majority of the donated work sold for a total of \$950.

Jacobson has been pleased with the response from the community. "We've had a fabulous response, with 50 or more people attending the opening receptions, which have been a great way to attract people who don't necessarily participate in regular WLC activities," she said. The response has also been positive from those who attend various programs at the WLC as well as the artists whose work was featured in the shows. Senior fine arts major Catherine Cain had a photograph exhibited in Harney's show and said she was "honored to be a part of the show, especially because it was a christening of sorts for the space. Overall, the internship is a really exciting opportunity and the WLC is prime space for shows with lots of space to walk around and view the work."

Although there is no curator for the end of the spring semester, fine arts and WMST senior Carrie McClain will hold her senior exhibition in the space on May 6, 2006.

~Meg Gray

## Strong submits AU history for possible publication

Upstairs in Herrick Memorial Library, on a table in the Special Collections room, sits a black binder holding a copy of Associate Provost Susan Strong's 594-page dissertation. But if publishers like what they see this summer, we might see a sleeker volume on bookshelves by next year.

In 1995, Strong completed *"The Most Natural Way in the World": Co-Education at Nineteenth-Century Alfred University* as the capstone for her Ph.D. in history and higher education from the University of Rochester.

"Ever since I finished that, I've wanted to convert it from a dissertation format to a book," said Strong. This spring, she submitted the manuscript to a

publisher for review.

Starting work in 1992, Strong set out to answer two questions: Was Alfred University truly the second oldest coeducational college in the nation, and what was the character of that institution? In poring through publications, diaries and recollections of those who took part in that early Alfred community, Strong determined that "yes, we can say Alfred was the second oldest," behind Oberlin College.

More importantly, she learned that, in contrast to its contemporary institutions, Alfred Academy, later Alfred University, was a liberal environment in which female students were not only free, but also encouraged, to participate

in all facets of academic life.

"Many of the early coeducational colleges were conservative. Women may have been educated, but they were educated for the home," said Strong. "They were not permitted to speak in classes with men or to give graduation speeches."

But Alfred was different. It was home to the first college women's orations in the country. At other places, "the people who educated women would not allow suffrage to be discussed on their campuses" because they either opposed it or feared that pushing for suffrage would bring a backlash, according to Strong. This was by no means the case at Alfred, in large part because of Abigail Allen's

influence. She and her husband Jonathan shared enlightened views of human rights that made equal treatment of women "the most natural thing in the world."

In her dissertation, Strong used thorough research and understated humor to bring out a rich, human and fascinating story of a young institution emerging in a pioneer community. As she whittles her work to book length, Strong hopes to retain its essence.

"There are wonderful stories in there. As much as possible, I'm trying to bring those out," said Strong. "This place was amazing. I wouldn't say that if it weren't true."

~Aaron Margulis

# When academic “rights” are wrong

Since author, critic, columnist and activist David Horowitz first announced his proposal for an “Academic Bill of Rights” in late 2003, women’s studies programs across the country have been questioning what the advancement of Horowitz’s definition of academic freedom might mean for them.

The Academic Bill of Rights is a document that calls upon colleges and universities to ensure the promotion of such values as “pluralism, diversity, opportunity, critical intelligence, openness and fairness.” The bill insists that university faculty must refrain from indoctrinating students into their personal religious or political beliefs. Above all, it stresses the need for a safe and supportive learning environment in which no student feels persecuted for his or her beliefs. Sounds logical, right?

The twist, of course, is that the academic freedom Horowitz promotes in the bill is one that protects conservative students’ viewpoints in the predominantly liberal setting of the academy. Horowitz, while a self-identified Marxist during the 1960s, is now a leading voice for the causes of the right, with such publications as *The Politics of Bad Faith: The Radical Assault on America’s Future* and *Unholy Alliance: Radical Islam and the American Left*.

In the nearly two-and-a-half years since the bill was announced, Horowitz has been actively lobbying state legislatures to consider and pass it. It has already made substantial inroads. This past summer, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed HR 177—a resolution supporting intellectual diversity and academic freedom in the state’s public colleges and universities. The content and wording of the

resolution drew mainly upon the Academic Bill of Rights.

The nature of Horowitz’s call for academic “freedom” makes it particularly problematic for faculties in the fields of literature, history, global and cultural studies and, significantly, women’s studies. These programs are more likely to be attacked because of their particular and highly subjective natures. Success in these fields depends on an individual’s entertaining a plurality of viewpoints and the extent of her openness to outside views and perspectives. Often, many of these viewpoints will diverge from the political right, or even the political center.

Women’s studies teaching and scholarship is, of course, quite far from the right; an understanding of and participation in feminist thought or action requires an appreciation of views that are liberal at the very least, and often tend toward the more radical. Thus, women’s studies programs everywhere, and particularly those at public colleges and universities, eye Horowitz’s plan with anxiety. The possibility exists that WMST programs in states where academic freedom bills pass could be jeopardized or even cut.

Public colleges and universities in New York State have already taken measures against the Academic Bill of Rights, with members of SUNY’s faculty senate passing a resolution that promotes intellectual diversity without calling for the hiring of faculty with conservative points of view to balance out students’ educational experience.

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has also released a statement condemning efforts to bring variants on Horowitz’s bill into law. The rebuttal draws a very important contrast between the

ideas of a true nonindoctrination policy and the policy posited by the Academic Bill of Rights, which confounds indoctrination and proper pedagogy, drawing on principles outside of the relevant standards of scholarship.

Actions of the AAUP and individual faculty senates around the nation have protested against the Academic Bill of Rights itself, but there is another key voice that is making itself heard loud and clear in the call for Horowitz’s brand of intellectual diversity: Students for Academic Freedom (SAF). The organization is another Horowitz brainchild. With chapters on 182 campuses across the U.S., it is spreading the word about the Academic Bill of Rights and reminding students, “You can’t get a good education if they’re only telling you half the story.”

One of the most popular features on SAF’s Web site is a forum for students who believe that their rights have been abused by a professor or administrator who is an “enemy to academic freedom.” The reports are unofficial, and SAF notes on its site that it makes no formal effort to investigate them. However, every report is posted to the site for public view; visitors to the forum can search by date or university name to see brief but detailed accounts of alleged abuses.

A quick survey of the reports reveals complaints against academic freedom’s usual suspects: literature professors who assign readings with risqué sexual content, global studies teachers who cite American cultural imperialism as the enemy, and philosophy professors who devote abundant space in the syllabus to feminist theory.

Not surprisingly, few complaints appear against

courses that can explicitly be classified as women’s studies — students in women’s studies courses are, by and large, there because they want to be and are therefore more open to the material and the pedagogy.

What is surprising, however, is the high volume of complaints made against professors in seemingly innocuous fields like physics, engineering and mathematics. In these classrooms, there is little room for questions of academic freedom on the syllabus or in the course material, but when a professor engages in a moment of Bush-bashing, it can be enough to prompt a complaint.

Many of the complaints seem frivolous, such as that of a student from a junior college in Virginia who expressed offense at a history professor’s brief lesson on eighteenth-century sexual profanities, presumably a technique to liven up the room and spark interest in the subject matter. Other complaints, however, are downright disturbing. Take, for example, the one lodged by a nursing student at the University of Maryland’s Baltimore campus about a course titled Maternal, Newborn and Women’s Health Nursing:

“As part of the class curriculum (in covering topics for women’s health), [the professor] also brought in a lot of contraceptive devices, such as the female condom and dental dams, and required the students to come up front and examine them, then do a brief demo/explanation for how each could work.”

The student was deeply offended by this exercise, but completed it because it would “technically ... be considered curriculum.” Still, this student’s

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complaint is problematic. Aside from a nursing student misidentifying a dental dam as a "contraceptive," the very idea of a future health professional regarding key women's health training as superfluous to the nursing curriculum is troubling to say the least.

Ultimately, however, "troubling" may be the best word to sum up the entire debate over academic freedom. Horowitz's ideology is certainly dangerous, and states that are

adopting it need to be pushed to reevaluate their educational policies. Nonetheless, it does not appear that academic freedom will necessarily be the death of women's studies. If we're lucky, scholars' outrage over the Academic Bill of Rights will translate into action, and women's studies faculties will raise their collective voice in support of true intellectual diversity.

#### Sources:

*American Association of University Professors* <http://www.aaup.org>.

*State University of New York Faculty Senate Resolution on the Academic Bill of Rights* [http://www.albany.edu/senate/RES0506\\_03R.doc](http://www.albany.edu/senate/RES0506_03R.doc)

*Students for Academic Freedom.* <http://www.studentsforacademicfreedom.org>.

~Abby Tripp

## Women's History Month

March 16: **Phi Beta Kappa Lecture**, Dr. Deborah Stone, Dartmouth College, "The Paradox of Altruism."

March 17: **Student lunch with Dr. Deborah Stone**, "Leadership and Everyday Altruism."

March 18: **Seneca Falls Trip**, Sponsored by WMST & WLC.

March 23, 2006: **Women of Influence Speaker**, Hoda Zakarya, visiting Fulbright scholar at AU, "In Egypt, One Woman is Worth 100 Men."

March 24: **Women's Studies Roundtable**, Associate Professor of English Susan Morehouse presents "Angel of the City."

March 30: **Movie Night** at the Women's Leadership Center, *And the Band Played On*.

April 3: **Student lunch with Rose Danella**, "Women and HIV/AIDS Prevention in the Bahamas."

April 3: **Riley Lecture, Rose Danella**, "Scientific Discovery: People, Politics, Pressures."

## WMST bids fond farewell to five seniors

This spring, the WMST program will wave farewell to its five graduating minors. At this year's last WMST Roundtable, the presenters were Meg Gray, Sara Schnick and Tara Mungro. Adrienne Egglinger and Carrie McClain presented their independent senior projects in other fora.

Meg Gray presented her thesis work on adolescent sexuality and behaviors and the current trends in sexual education. She will be graduating with a bachelor of arts in fine arts. Meg has served as the Coordinator of the Women's Issues Coalition for two years running; as the Assistant Manager of AU's own radio station, WALF; as an AAUW Campus Action Project team member; and as a representative on the Student Advisory Board for the WLC.

Sara Schnick has been active in the Theater program

at AU and will be graduating with a B.A. in history and



**WMST minors Adrienne Egglinger, Sara Schnick and Meg Gray will be graduating in May.**

theater. During the fall semester, Sara received a Smith-Crapsey Grant to fund her senior project, a production of Ibsen's *A Doll House*. She used her thesis to combine her interests in WMST, theater and history, focusing on the emergence of feminist ideas in European theater at

the turn of the 20th century. This past spring she directed

AU's production of *The Vagina Monologues*, continued to do technical work for AU theater productions and completed her term as president of Phi Alpha Theta, a history honor society.

Adrienne Egglinger will graduate with a degree in communication studies and

minors in both English and WMST. For her senior project, she is serving as the Managing Editor of *The Alphasdelphian*. She has also served as Production Manager of the *Fiat Lux* for the past two years, captain of the varsity soccer team, member of the varsity softball team, and a member of leadership honor society Omicron Delta Kappa.

Carrie McClain will graduate with a bachelor of arts in fine arts and will present her WMST project at her senior art show in May. Carrie's exhibit is a collection of photos exploring women's identities and positions in society through their private and public spaces. Her show will be displayed at the WLC, and it will be the first senior show exhibited at the Center.

~Paula Epps

# Spectrum celebrates successful year

For Spectrum, the 2005-'06 school year has been one of collaboration. We have made many friends, and our ally support has been phenomenal.

We started in May of 2005, working with Psi Chi to

the LGBT community (in 12 colors!). We clothed 35 percent of the campus population that day. The T-shirts were gone in less than two hours. We had to turn people away, disappointed that they were not in time to

offered a prayer for all those surviving with and all those who had died from AIDS.

But, in November and March, we celebrated our sexuality and ourselves with our semi-annual party, Glam Slam. November's featured an '80s prom, held in Davis Gym, garlanded with streamers and Christmas lights. March's had a bordello theme, held in the Knight Club, and featured performances by several Spectrum members.

We've had bowling trips and movie nights, and we have also carried on the tradition of visiting classes (started by Doc Walker and continued this year by Sally Dougherty). This last is one of our favorite informational interactions with AU students; it's a chance for students to ask us the questions they've always wondered about, and laughter and good feelings always result. We

We were also happy to collaborate with WIC to earn a little extra money from Student Senate to bring the big-name performer Dar Williams to campus. Because we received so much support from Senate (and benefited from the wonderful negotiating skills of John Ketcham), we were able to offer the students and surrounding community a rockin' free concert. On Mar. 13, despite being sick, Dar sang 15 songs, and even asked the entire audience (200-250 people!) into her dressing room to hang out afterwards.

It has been a joy to cooperate with so many different organizations on campus and bring about so many wonderful programs and events for the Alfred community. I would like to thank Psi Chi, WIC, Sally Dougherty, Crandall Health Center and all of our sponsors



**Dar Williams poses with Spectrum Co-president Jess Barnthouse after her Mar. 13 concert.**

bring the "Gay? fine by me." campaign to campus. Because of our collaborating efforts, we were awarded an AU Diversity Grant of \$500, which purchased nearly 100 T-shirts. It was a starting point.

After that, we canvassed the campus with letters asking for help with the campaign. Our most notable sponsors were the Office of Residence Life, the Career Development Center, Student Affairs and President Edmondson. Without the support of these university offices (and, of course, Psi Chi) our campaign to spread a message of tolerance would not have been so spectacularly successful.

On National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11, 2005, the members of Spectrum and Psi Chi distributed 705 T-shirts that proclaimed support of

receive a T-shirt.

Spectrum and Psi Chi received joint awards from the American Marketing Association for the advertisement of the event, with both organizations sending representatives to the dinner and award ceremony.

We saved 15 of the coveted shirts and raffled them off to raise money for the "Doc" Walker memorial fund. We raised over \$100.

On Dec. 1, Spectrum joined with Crandall Health Center to support World AIDS Day. We had a woman from the Alfred area who is living with AIDS speak to us about her experiences and struggles with the disease. The session was both moving and informational, and we ended with a candle-light vigil at which one of our presidents, Jessica Barnthouse



**Members of AU's Student Affairs team gather for a photo on National Coming Out Day.**

were able to visit Dougherty's Close Relationships class during the fall semester and her Psychology of Women class in the spring semester. Hopefully we'll continue to join with the psychology faculty to carry on this tradition of enlightenment.

of the T-shirt campaign for making this a year to remember for Spectrum.

*~Missie Cole, Spectrum Co-President*



# Will the *Roe v. Wade* Decision Legalizing Abortion Soon Be a Thing of the Past?

Last year, *The Alhadelphian* reported on the state of the Supreme Court and Bush's public vow to overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision during the course of his presidency. At the time, it seemed unlikely that he would succeed in this quest, but one year and two new justices later, the situation has changed enough that politicians in favor of overturning *Roe v. Wade* are becoming optimistic.

On Jan. 22, 1973, the Supreme Court ruled that it was a violation of a woman's constitutional right to privacy to refuse her the choice of abortion by law. The choice was to be made by the woman in consultation with her doctor, with some exceptions in later stages of pregnancy. Since that time, there have been countless arguments about whether or not this decision was right, whether abortion should be a matter for each state to decide, or even whether or not abortion should be made entirely illegal in the United States.

We cannot know how the justices would vote in a case that challenges the *Roe v. Wade* precedent, but from past court decisions and public opinions, it is possible to make educated guesses as to how justices are likely to vote. The results from last year and the current year are as follows:

Supreme Court 2005				Supreme Court 2006			
Name	Age	Uphold	Overturn	Name	Age	Uphold	Overturn
Stephen Breyer	66	•		Samuel A. Alito, Jr.	56		•
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	72	•		Stephen Breyer	67	•	
Anthony Kennedy*	68	•		Ruth Bader Ginsburg	73	•	
Sandra Day O'Connor	75	•		Anthony Kennedy*	69	•	
William Rehnquist**	51		•	John G. Roberts, Jr.**	51		•
Antonin Scalia	69		•	Antonin Scalia	70		•
David Souter	65	•		David Souter	66	•	
John Paul Stevens	85	•		John Paul Stevens	86	•	
Clarence Thomas	56		•	Clarence Thomas	57		•

\*Some sources claim that Justice Kennedy would vote to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, though most argue that he would be more likely to uphold the 1973 ruling.

\*\*Chief Justice

So, last year the vote would most likely have been 6-3 to uphold *Roe v. Wade* with a possibility of the vote being 5-4, but either way, it would have been upheld. Now that Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has retired, however, the picture is very different. It looks like if an abortion case were to make it to the Supreme Court, the vote would be a 5-4 split, but it is uncertain which way it might go. Additionally, if Justice Stevens or Justice Ginsberg were to retire and be replaced by a conservative anti-choice judge, it is almost guaranteed that a case brought to the Court challenging *Roe v. Wade* would lead to the overturning of that decision.

As an appellate court, the Supreme Court cannot be the first venue in which a case is discussed; cases must first move through the lower courts. Then, if the case is appealed to the Supreme Court, justices can refuse to hear it. Normally, it takes years for a case to make it to the Supreme Court, if it makes it there at all. However, with the new optimism resulting from the appointments of Justices Roberts and Alito, and the hope that another justice might be replaced during the Bush administration, South Dakota is already taking measures to get a case to the Supreme Court. A bill has passed in South Dakota that bans all abortions, making no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape and incest, except in the case of protecting the life of the mother. This bill is designed to push a case in front of the Supreme Court and force the justices to either uphold or overturn *Roe v. Wade*. If South Dakota succeeds in getting a case brought to the Supreme Court, then the *Roe v. Wade* precedent will be revisited, and it is conceivable, if not yet likely, that it will be overturned.

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# WMST Faculty Factoids

**Associate Professor of French Cecilia Beach** was on sabbatical last year, finishing *Staging Politics and Gender: French Women's Drama, 1880-1923*. She is now researching the works of French woman novelist, playwright and political activist Victoire Léodile Béra, who wrote under the pen name André Léo. As part of this research, Beach is preparing an article on integral education, a body of 19<sup>th</sup> century educational theory written mostly by socialist and anarchist thinkers. She will explore how Béra's novels promote ideas such as coeducation, distrust of authority, development of each child's individual strengths and practical education – for instance, learning botany in fields instead of by rote.

In June, Beach spent 10 days in Senegal at an international faculty development seminar, working on subjects as varied as politics, literature and African drumming and dance.

**Executive Director of Capital Campaigns Sylvia Bryant** returned to the classroom in spring of 2005 after a seven-year hiatus. She accepted the challenge of teaching the WMST foundation course, Women in Society. She said that this class has always been demanding because there is “so much great material to cover in so little time.” Bryant reaped the rewards of the students' interest and hard work and forged new friendships.

Bryant said she was grateful for the opportunity to interact with students, as it rarely arises in her full-time position in the University Relations office. A great deal of the business she conducts there deals directly with alumni, most of whom graduated at least 20 years ago (although there are occasionally more recent graduates). She said, “All of them, regardless of their generation, are very excited about and supportive of the new Women's Leadership Center on campus.” She has found that the energy surrounding this new project is overwhelming, both on and off campus. Bryant enjoys supporting the WLC and other WMST programs, including the WMST Roundtable and the Women of Influence series at the WLC.

**Assistant Professor of English Emerita**

**Carol Burdick** has been keeping busy at the Pondhouse, a beautifully situated home only a few miles from Alfred University. She and her dogs, Cindy and Wisty (short for wistful), spend their free time enjoying the birds and the view of the pond. She has had a poem accepted into the Rutgers University's forthcoming volume *Cutting Loose*, a collection of poems written by people who have had long-term relationships end.

Burdick has also been appointed to an advisory panel for the New-Cue environmental group. Her panel is in charge of coming up with ways to make activism a larger part of the group's work.

Last summer, a former student drove Burdick up to visit Pam Lakin at her Nova Scotia home where, reportedly, “A good time was had by all!”

When not teaching, writing, tutoring students at Empire State College or feeding the birds, Burdick enjoys spending time with her “substitute grandchildren,” her colleagues' children, who are more local than her own grandchildren.

When he's not bodysurfing in California or responding to fire calls in Alfred, **Professor of Philosophy William Dibrell** enjoys lecturing on the influence of feminism on philosophy. This spring, he gave a lecture on “Feminism as Philosophy” in Vicki Eaklor's Women in Society class. He discussed how looking at some basic philosophical assumptions through the lens of feminist theory can change the way we think about the world. He and Professor of Art Theory Beth Ann Dobie have co-authored a paper for the Third International Conference of Bioengineering Ethics. The paper focuses on multiple sources of moral obligation, drawing from the work of Virginia Held, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University.

**Associate Professor of Art Theory and BAFA Director Beth Ann Dobie** recently finished an article on artists who use human hair in their artwork, a predominantly female practice. This usage is rooted in feminist epistemology, making the art known through the body rather than a dualism between the body and the work. She is currently teaching Philosophy of the

Arts and BAFA foundations courses. She has also been reading about the philosophy of art education.

**Vicki Eaklor, Professor of History**, remained very involved in WMST this year. After commenting on a panel on queer media at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women last June and dancing a lot at the closing party, Eaklor took a semester off. Naturally, she did not sit back and watch *The Simpsons* for her entire sabbatical; instead, she managed to use the time away from classes to complete one book and begin another, both in the area of LGBT history and politics.

An article Eaklor wrote years ago, “Striking Chords and Touching Nerves: Myth and Gender in *Gone With the Wind*,” and posted online at *Images: A Journal of Film and Popular Culture* ([www.imagesjournal.com](http://www.imagesjournal.com)), has been reprinted in the new edition of *Signs of Life in the USA: Readings on Popular Culture for Writers*, eds. Sonia Maasik and Jack Solomon, (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006).

This semester, Eaklor gave a lecture on “Women's Rights: Past, Present, Future” at the Howe Library in Wellsville and chaired a panel at the annual Lesbian Lives Conference at University College in Dublin, Ireland.

**Associate Professor of Communication Studies Robyn Goodman** continues to expand her horizons. Over winter break Goodman went on a two-week rainforest trek in Costa Rica. While exploring all that Costa Rica had to offer, she met some interesting people. “I was lucky enough to get to know two incredible women from Colorado: former U.S. Senate Democratic candidate Josie Heath and the first female justice to serve on the Colorado Supreme Court, Jean Dubofsky. I'm hoping to get one or both of these women to visit AU and share their incredible stories,” she said.

With Goodman's outrageous trip taking up most of her winter break, she has not had much time to conduct WMST research. Much of her current research and many of her professional efforts are focused on journalism. She is helping to train student journalists to cover world news effectively. To this end, she is helping to spearhead

a one-of-a-kind world congress of journalism educators. They will meet in Singapore in 2007 to discuss how to improve university training for foreign correspondents.

Goodman was recently honored as one of eight fellows nationwide to participate in the 2005-'06 Journalism and Mass Communication Leadership Institute for Diversity. The program, funded by the Gannet Foundation, provides training and mentoring for women and people of color interested in becoming deans, directors, or department chairs. As part of the program, she attended a special leadership workshop and had the opportunity to shadow two mentors at the University of Texas-Austin.

This semester Goodman is teaching Women, Minorities and Media, and she plans to teach Global Media again in the future.

**Larry Greil, Professor of Sociology**, has a long history of supporting and staying involved in the WMST program. Greil has taught the Sociology of Reproduction and Honors Seminars on reproductive technology, and he addresses issues of gender in all of his courses.

Greil is currently part of a team conducting a study that looks at "help-seeking and emotional responses to infertility among American women." One goal of this study is to discover why women decide to become mothers.

Greil is also involved in Hillel of Alfred. He is working on a study examining patterns and gender differences among people who choose to leave ultra-Orthodox Judaism. At the beginning of the 2005-'06 school year, Greil joined Women's Leadership Center Director Amy Jacobson in leading a group of 20 students to visit the New York State Supreme Court, courtesy of Justice Karla Moskowitz '63, in New York City.

**Professor of Political Science and Director of WMST Laura Greyson** continues to focus her research on the concept of civic education, particularly as it relates to women. Her work in this arena piqued an associated research interest in the social feminism of Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

Gilman was just one of the many thinkers included on the syllabus when Greyson

taught Women in Political Thought this past fall. While course readings did include some feminist authors, the overall scope focused on "the place of women in the larger political community – a subject that is too often neglected in most political theory courses."

Greyson's interest in women and civic leadership is not merely academic. As of late, she has enjoyed the opportunity to translate theory into practice as the voice of WMST on the Women's Leadership Center Advisory Board.

Although **Associate Professor of English and First-Year Experience Director Allen Grove** is taking some time off from WMST teaching and research, he is still integrating women writers into his syllabi whenever possible. This semester, in a course on 18<sup>th</sup> century literature, he covered "some of the earliest female novelists", a departure from traditional surveys of the period that "focus on all the big male writers." Meanwhile, in his course on the novel, he taught three texts by female authors: Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Grove is also editing Mary Elizabeth Braddon's *A Strange World*, an 1870s Victorian sensation novel about women in the theater, "with a murder mystery bundled in there."

Grove was pleased to note that, during winter break, he finally got his office organized. Of the newly clean and airy space he remarked, "It really is kind of unrecognizable."

**Sharon Hoover, Professor Emerita of English**, is active in WMST, even in retirement. She is currently working with Melissa Ryan, Assistant Professor of English, to create a Willa Cather bibliography to be distributed on the Cather Web site, a major research site in Cather studies. In the past, such bibliographies have been created for male authors, but never for an American woman writer.

While a professor at Alfred, Hoover supported *The Alphadelphian*, advised WMST projects and gave lectures and taught courses on women's issues. Hoover says that what she enjoyed most about the WMST program was "watching the young

women become strong and sure in taking charge of their own lives. I still see or hear from a few of them occasionally, and I love it."

**Ariana Huberman, Assistant Professor of Spanish**, is opening doors and minds in the WMST program. She is now offering a new course, Women in Latin America, which is cross-listed in four departments. She is also teaching a course on 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Latin American Culture and Literature (also cross-listed with WMST). The majority of the authors, politicians and artists covered in the course are women.

Huberman has been writing about contemporary Jewish authors, most of whom are women, and has published three articles on the subject. Another article currently under review is about being Jewish and foreign in Margo Glasntz's autobiographical *Les Genealogias*.

In February, Huberman organized a screening of the renowned documentary *Señorita Extraviada*, an exposé on the killings of young women in Juárez, Mexico. This year she will be getting married to "a true partner," and will publish a compilation of essays on Jewish Latin American culture this August.

**Kerry Kautzman, Assistant Professor of Spanish**, has always had an interest in the field of WMST. She has taught Contemporary Spanish Women Writers and Women of the Spanish Golden Age. She and Pam Schultz have also team-taught an Honors Seminar titled Sex and Power. This year, she again appeared as a guest lecturer in Women in Society, speaking on cross-cultural violence against women. Kautzman also serves on AU's WMST Executive Committee.

Kautzman's research focuses on Spanish women writers of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Currently, she is working on transcribing, translating and analyzing an account of a Hieronymite nun's visions. Last year she published an article titled "Teresa de Cartagena's Use of Medical Discourse," which connects with texts of another Spanish woman of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In March, Kautzman presented with Ariana Huberman at the Latin American Studies Association conference in San Juan. Her topic was the author Cristina Peri Rossi, an exile from



Uruguay living in Barcelona. Kautzman analyzed Rossi's use of the Spanish city in her novel *La Nave de los Locos*.

When Kautzman is not teaching, doing research or traveling, she likes to "accidentally" adopt animals. She is currently at "maximum density with a dog, two cats and two bunnies."

After working at AU since 1967, **Associate Librarian Pamela Lakin** will be retiring in May. Lakin has seen Alfred come a long way through the years. With Karen Porter, Lakin instituted the Abigail Allen Award, and she was part of the first group to initiate and organize the Riley Lecture. "Nothing seemed to focus on women or highlighted women on campus among the students and faculty," which is why she said she felt the need to create the Abigail Allen Award. She said that the award is a "really nice thing to have" on campus.

Right now Lakin is the Research Services Librarian at Herrick Library. She also worked as the head of Study Abroad for ten years, served as the co-advisor of WIC and taught an Honors class about how women have evolved over time. She was at AU when there were few female faculty members. Now, as Lakin describes it, "AU is a whole new world." Lakin is sad to leave Alfred's beautiful and accomplished campus, but she will take with her quite a bit of Alfred history. She is, however, looking forward to some relaxation. She says she will now have time to travel, read and do some gardening.

This semester, **Professor of English Susan Mayberry's** upper-level course, titled Black Women Writers, gave her the opportunity to reflect on her history at AU. As a first-semester professor and the fifth woman on the LAS faculty at the time, Mayberry offered to teach a 200-level course on black writers, a subject she had been "interested in since graduate school." She ended up teaching two sections of Writing II that semester—"not one student signed up" for the course. This semester, 25 years later, some students wound up on a waiting list after Black Women Writers filled to capacity in the first few days of preregistration. "The audience is there now," she says.

Mayberry attributes this dramatic shift to the numerous faculty members around the country, many of them women, who pushed

to get black writers and women writers into college classroom.

Mayberry linked the changes in academia to a greater sense of social change for women, commenting that she spent her high school and college years working as a lifeguard while never having the chance to swim competitively. "We've come a long way," she said, as her daughter Caroline demonstrates. She is a three-season varsity athlete at Alfred-Almond Central School.

**Professor of History Linda Mitchell** has been on sabbatical this year, working on two of the three projects that she is juggling presently. First, she's writing a book on family life in the Middle Ages for Greenwood Press. Second, she's working on a book about the heirs of William and Isabella Marshal and how their interactions shaped the development of the English political community between 1200 and 1400. The latter has "compelled" her to spend two months in Ireland, mapping castle and monastic sites and doing research in the National Archives. She's also hoping to spend a few weeks in Wales this summer doing the same. It's a tough job, but somebody's gotta drink that Guinness and eat those chocolate biscuits (preferably not at the same time!). In between research trips, she can be found in her garden and working on her house and, when the weather is good, on the golf course.

**Susan Morehouse, Associate Professor of English**, has done substantial research on women writers including Emily Dickinson, Kate Chopin and Audre Lord for *Women in World History*. She has published an essay in *The Southern Review* about her grandmother, who wrote poetry during a time when few women were recognized as accomplished writers. The essay focuses on how women fought for a voice and how this struggle makes women who they are today.

Last year Morehouse taught Women Writers and International Women Writers. She also organizes an annual creative writing conference through which she hopes to encourage women to develop their creative writing skills. This semester she was a guest professor in Women in Society, discussing mother/daughter relationships. Morehouse knows the stories of seven generations of women in her family, all of them great storytellers. Her great-great

grandmother, after whom her daughter Lora is named, was a light opera and Vaudeville actress.

**Professor of History Gary Ostrower** spent last spring in Denmark as a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Aarhus. While there, he taught courses about the Vietnam War and American History after 1945, as well as lectured on other topics. He also guest-lectured at the University of Copenhagen. "The women's movement came later to Denmark than the United States," he said. "Faculties in Denmark tend to be somewhat more male." However, he said that Denmark's commitment to equality "is both deep and wide," and that half or more of undergraduate and graduate History students are female. He described Denmark as a "very moderate, orderly country" whose conflicts tend to be between people of different ethnicities, rather than between the sexes. He said that the growing Muslim community now challenges traditional Danish views on religious tolerance, as the two communities view gender equality and the importance of religion quite differently.

Ostrower continues to publish articles about the United Nations and U.S. foreign policy, especially as they relate to the Middle East, and he will contribute work to a new transnational encyclopedia.

**Karen Porter, Professor of Sociology**, teaches courses on the sociology of families, research methods and the sociology of sex and gender. She presented a paper to the ACCORD Corporation this past July titled *Women's and Children's CHANCES Program Survey: An Analysis of Results*, a report based on data collected from female victims of domestic violence and their children who attend support groups run by ACCORD.

As an affiliate with the Rural Justice Institute at Alfred University, Porter's current research documents the effects of collaboration among local agencies on the problem of domestic violence young people face in their families and within the community. She serves on both the American Association of University Women's Campus Action Project and the Allegany County United Way Board of Directors, as well as the Executive Committee of the Allegany County Consortium on Domestic Violence.

**Becky Prophet, Professor of Theater** has been especially active in WMST over the last few semesters. Last semester, she and her husband Craig joined Nancy Evangelista and Joe Dosch in presenting a Women's Studies Roundtable about their unconventional marriage arrangements. She also directed *Varied Barrie*, a production which combined two one-act plays by J.M. Barrie focusing on female loneliness and independence.

This semester, Prophet is teaching a course titled Women in Theater and directing *You Can't Take it with You* by Hart and Kaufman. She will be going to the national American College Theater Festival in April as one of only four Directing Faculty Fellows in the country. She is also working hard to retain her title as the Principal Purveyor of Puns on the Alfred University campus.

**Assistant Professor of English Melissa Ryan** is teaching North American Women Writers for the spring 2006 semester. The writers on her syllabus include New Englander Hannah W. Foster, Canadian author Margaret Atwood and Chicana writer Ana Castillo. This past December, Ryan presented at the Modern Language Association on S. Alice Callahan, author of *Wynema: Child of the Forest*, the first known novel by a Native American woman. In March 2006 she attended a conference devoted to suffragist Susan B. Anthony and her contemporaries. At this conference, she presented her research on Central New York women's rights activist Matilda Joselyn Gage. She is also in her second year advising the Women's Issues Coalition.

This summer, Ryan will be getting married in an outfit that includes a tiara and cowboy boots. Seriously.

Last spring, **Associate Professor of Communication Studies Pamela Schultz** took a sabbatical for the birth of her second child, Bryson, born in March. In January 2005, she published a book titled *Not Monsters: Analyzing the Stories of Child Molesters*. Her book explores how social constructions of identity are communicated through interpersonal violence, such as child molestation. She was back on campus in the fall, teaching Gender in Communications.

When Schultz is not on campus teaching,

she is very active being a mother, which allows little time for research. Her six-year-old daughter, Eileah, is keeping her very busy. Eileah is musically inclined, just like her mother, playing the violin and taking music and dance classes. While she is trying to keep up with her daughter's busy schedule, Schultz is also running after her son, whom she describes as a "daredevil." Other than being a mom, she just finished a kitchen remodel on her house in Rochester. Schultz says, "I'm feeling really domestic at this point in my life. I'm definitely nesting."

**Sandra Singer, Associate Professor of German and Chair of Modern Languages**, has been on Alfred University's faculty since 1994. She served as organizer of the WMST Roundtables from 1995 to 1998 and has done so from 2004 to the present.

Singer is particularly interested in researching women of the late 19th and early 20th centuries who were unable to access graduate schools in the United States and traveled to German-speaking countries to continue their education. These women were influential in making graduate studies more accessible to women in both Europe and the U.S. In 2003, she published a book on this research, titled *Adventures Abroad: North American Women at German-Speaking Universities, 1868-1915*.

Singer believes that WMST courses provide students with the confidence to reach out and help other women. When she is not busy with her teaching or research, she loves to go folk dancing.

**Robert Stein, Assistant Professor of Political Science**, has been a full-time faculty member at Alfred University since 2004. He has yet to teach any WMST courses here, but he arrived on AU's campus with experience teaching Feminist Political Theory, Introduction to Women's Studies, and Sex and the Body Politic. Stein believes that "gender and women's issues are part of the way you view the world," so he acts on this belief in all of his classes. Stein resides in Rochester with his partner Andrea and their eight-year-old son Pablo. He enjoys bicycling, jazz music and traveling to Santiago, Chile to visit Andrea's family and improve his Spanish.

**For Fiona Tolhurst, Associate Professor of English**, "the problem is that I'm doing too many things at once." In addition to advising *The Alphasdelphian* for the second year in a row, she is looking forward to two publications of her own in 2006: an entry on Guinevere in *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia* and an article in *Teaching New English* titled "Why We Should Teach – And Our Students Perform – *The Legend of Good Women*." In 2005, she published an article in *Re-Viewing Le Morte D'Arthur* titled "Why Every Knight Needs His Lady."

Last semester, Tolhurst's courses included Medieval Women Writers, in which she and her students were pleased to come across *Stealing Heaven*, a reasonably accurate film adaptation depicting the torrid affair of Peter Abelard and his student, Heloise.

In the summer of 2005, Tolhurst successfully adopted an Australian Shepherd through the breed's rescue league. Duchess # 2, who spent her first years of life birthing litters for a breeder, was promptly renamed Daphne – "an apropos name given that she was forced to have babies against her will."

**Visiting Professor and Fulbright Scholar Hoda Zakareya** comes to AU from Cairo University. Zakareya is a political sociologist who is deeply involved in women's issues and movements. In Egypt, she runs a social development program with a training course for women. The program teaches women how to read and write, while raising awareness of women's issues.

Zakareya recently contributed to an analytical study, published in November 2005, called *The Harvest: Two Years After Khol*. This study discussed the new provision in Egypt, Khol, which states that women can get a divorce without their husbands' permission. She has also been doing research on the division of professional roles between men and women in Egypt. She is analyzing how these roles relate to the marginalization of women in Egyptian society.

Zakareya is a single mother, and she says this has been the most important role of her life.

# Judge jazzed about PBK recognition

New York State Supreme Court Justice Karla Moskowitz '63 has a long list of achievements that continues to grow. Her latest acknowledgement came from Alfred University's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa; she returned to Alfred in April to accept her honorary membership in the nation's oldest and most prestigious honor society for liberal arts students. She also gave a Women of Influence talk at the WLC during her visit.

Moskowitz received her law degree from Columbia University in 1966. She was elected to the New York State Supreme Court in 1991, and in 2001 she was assigned to the Commercial Division of the court, where she now serves. She sits on the Anti-Bias Committee of the Supreme Court and the State Court Civil Law Curriculum Committee.

In addition to giving her support to Alfred's Women's

Studies Program at every opportunity—such as by hosting a student visit this past fall—Moskowitz is active in organizations of female lawyers. She currently holds the presidency of the National Association of Women Judges, founded and served as president of the Judges' and Lawyers' Breast Cancer Alert and has been a president of the New York State Association of Women Judges. She also serves

on many boards for local bar committees.

Her other noteworthy honors include the 1999 Founder's Award of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and the 1995 Women of Valor Award of the New York City Medical Association. She was also an alumna recipient of the 2004 Abigail Allen Award.

~Paula Epps

## West Cover, Vermont

Ellen,  
that corner where you planted lilies  
is rich with orange bloom today;  
the infant peonies you showed me proudly  
just a year ago, survived the winter.  
And even though the adolescent lilac  
by the stone-flagged pathway to the door  
has nearly lost all blossoms,  
some sweetness lingers.

I came to say goodbye;  
your mountains are the same.

Carol Burdick  
(1996)

## Women's Studies Roundtable 2005-'06

### Fall Semester

Friday, September 2, 2005

**Amy Jacobson, Director of the Women's Leadership Center**  
"Our New Women's Leadership Center"

Friday, October 7, 2005

**Cashelle Crowley, AU pre-med student**  
"The Feminist Women's Health Center in Atlanta, GA"

Friday, November 4, 2005

**Dr. Hoda Abdel-Monem Zakareya**  
"Women's Rights in Egypt"

Friday, December 2, 2005

**Becky and Craig Prophet, Nancy Evangelista and Joe Dosch**  
"New Paths: Family and Careers"

### Spring Semester

Friday, January 27, 2006

**Shades (student group)**  
"Gender Identity: Women in the Household"

Friday, February 24, 2006

**Rafika Zahrouni, "Women in Tunisia"**

Friday, March 31, 2006

**Susan Morehouse, Associate Professor of English and Gertz Chair in Writing, "Angel of the City"**

Friday, April 28, 2006

**Graduating Women's Studies Minors**



# World News

## Pierre, South Dakota

The state legislature voted to ban abortion in all cases except those in which the woman's life is at risk. South Dakota is the first U.S. state to challenge the status quo on abortion since 1973's, *Roe v. Wade* decision. The bill must now be confirmed by the lower house and signed by the the state governor, who opposes abortion.

## New York State

The New York State Assembly and Senate passed a bill in March designating Nov. 12 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Day. The bill was proposed by Sen. Catharine Young (R,I, C-Olean) to honor Stanton's "unwavering advocacy" for women.

The bill will be presented to Governor George Pataki for final consideration before it becomes law.

## London

The British government is pushing police to make more arrests and shut down more brothels in order to crack down on the sex trade. Other proposed ideas include a hotline for sexually exploited women who have been coerced into the trade. Turkey set up such a hotline six months ago and already 100 women have been rescued from slavery and 10 trafficking networks have been destroyed.

## Luton, Britain

16-year-old Shabina Begum is now allowed to attend school wearing the jilbab, a head-to-toe Muslim gown, after the Court of Appeal ruled in her favor. Begum was represented by Cherie Booth who claimed that Begum's human rights were breached when Denbigh High School tried to ban the jilbab.



## Kingston, Jamaica

Portia Simpson Miller, 60, will become Jamaica's first female prime minister after P.J. Patterson, the leader of the ruling National People's Party, retires.

## Mexico City

Inflatable sex dolls are being used by the Mexican government to fight sexual harassment. The slogan below the open-mouthed dolls dressed as office workers and maids, being groped or leered at reads, "No woman should be treated like an object."

## Santiago, Chile

Michelle Bachelet is the current President of Chile, the first woman to hold this position in the country's history. She won the 2006 election in a runoff, beating center-right billionaire businessman and former senator Sebastian Pinera with 53.5% of the vote.

## Germany

100 days into German Chancellor Angela Merkel's first term, she had the highest approval rating of any German chancellor since 1949.

## New Delhi, India

In 1994, a law was passed in India banning abortions on the basis of gender. Recent research has revealed that up to half a million baby girls are still being aborted every year, despite the law. There is still hope, nonetheless. Dr. Anil Sabhani and his assistant were recently sentenced to two years' jail time after a sting on their clinic. Sabhani is the first doctor to be jailed for aborting female fetuses.

# Russell lecturer espouses ecofeminism

By reexamining western culture's approach to gender, we can also change the way we look at human beings' relationships to the land, and vice versa.

This was the message that University of California-Berkeley's Carolyn Merchant brought to Alfred University when she presented this year's Russell Lecture, sponsored by the Division of Human Studies and the National Endowment for the Humanities, on Apr. 4 in Nevins Theater.

Merchant, currently a professor in environmental history, philosophy and ethics, is a noted ecofeminist with numerous publications on environmental history and its connection to gender. Her talk, titled "Reinventing

Eden: The Role of Nature in Western Culture," focused on the mythic story of western civilization and achievement.

History as we know it is "a grand narrative of the fall and recovery of the Garden of Eden," Merchant said.

The idea that the condition of humanity and the earth post-fall is problematic for women, Merchant explained.

"In Christian tradition the oneness [of nature] is male and the fall is caused by a female," she said.

Merchant also spoke about the western tradition of personifying the earth as female. Again, she explained that this view could be placed in the framework of the Judeo-Christian creation story: original Eve represents

virginity, purity and light; fallen Eve stands for disorder and chaos; and Eve as the mother, of all people nurturing and fruitfulness embodies.

Traditionally, the restoration of the earth from disorder back to its virgin status has been a "male-directed project," according to Merchant.

Merchant discussed the project of reclaiming a lost Eden in gendered terms, pointing to a passage from *The Octopus*, a Frank Norris novel about the spread of American industry. In the text, Norris portrays virgin soil by dozens of ploughs in a scene that closely resembles rape.

"The seduction of the female earth was carried out on a massive scale by thousands of men in unison," Merchant said

of the cultural truth reflected in Norris's scene. "The seduction becomes violent rape," she added.

As a solution, Merchant proposed that, just as men and women should seek equal partnerships with one another, they should also seek equal partnerships with nature. The goal, she said, should be a sense of balance and equilibrium.

No matter what, Merchant said, any change to the theoretical framework through which nature is viewed would change the entire story of western culture. "It would have a complex plot and a different ending," she concluded.

~Abby Tripp

# Those Wonderful Women Chemists!

On Apr. 11, Dr. Mary Ellen Bowden, Senior Research Historian of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, gave the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Samuel R. Scholes Jr. Lecture in Nevins Theater. Her topic was the history of women in chemistry from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to today.

Bowden began by talking about three women who succeeded as professional chemists in the 19<sup>th</sup> century despite the discrimination of most institutions of higher education against women. The first was Rachel Lloyd (1839-1900), the first American woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry.

Ellen S. Richards (1841-1911) became the first woman to attend, and then teach, at a technical college—MIT. Her groundbreaking survey of drinking water in Massachusetts led to the establishment of water quality standards.

The third was Mary Engle Pennington (1872-1952), the first female federal civil servant. Pennington gained her position with the help of a male colleague who labelled her top-scoring

exam "M. E. Pennington." She later designed refrigerator cars for railroads as well as refrigerators for the home.

Early women chemists received lower or no pay for academic positions equivalent to those of their male colleagues—if they could get them at all. Most American universities either tracked women into separate curricula or gave them an inferior degree—either a female-only one (e.g. Harvard's Radcliffe College) or a mere certificate.

Of course, the most famous woman scientist remains Marie Curie (1867-1934), winner of two Nobel Prizes and originator of the term "radioactivity." Her husband Pierre made it possible for her to win her first Nobel by insisting that her name appear on it with his.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century produced a more diverse generation of women chemists. Mary Daly was the first African-American woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry (1947) and was a professor of biochemistry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Other key figures

include Dianne D. Gates-Anderson (born 1961)—a frontrunner in using chemicals to attack and transform pollutants into safer substances—and Jennie Hwang, developer of stronger cements for highway construction.

The last trend Bowden discussed was the increasing proportion of female students earning degrees in chemistry. Women are now earning about 52 percent of bachelor's degrees, 49 percent of master's, and 33 percent of Ph. D.s. Although the Ph. D. percentage remains low, it is up from 18 percent in the mid 1980s.

Bowden ended her lecture noting that women chemists have not yet achieved equality with their male counterparts, but they have made great strides during the last quarter century.

~ Fiona Tolhurst  
Associate Professor of English

# Personal Essay: Former Heroine of Housewives Hones Hostility in Cynical Sequel

Terry Hekker, author of *Ever Since Adam & Eve*, a book written at the end of the '70s in defense of housewives, has begun work on her second book, scathingly titled *Disregard First Book*.

At the time she was writing her first book, Hekker was a contented housewife and mother of five. Seventeen years later, on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, her husband presented her with divorce papers and informed her that he was leaving her for a younger woman. The judge in her divorce case favored her husband, telling her that she should seek job training at age 67. As a result, Hekker was selling her possessions and going on food stamps while her ex-husband took expensive vacations with his lover.

Apparently, as more and more baby boomers reach retirement age, the proportion of senior-citizen divorces is becoming larger and larger. Older women who had depended on their husbands' income and who have no marketable job skills find it difficult to enter the work force that late in life, and they often find themselves living in poverty.

Now that Hekker has made the switch from contented housewife to abandoned senior citizen, her belief system has changed. Though she still believes that there is value in raising a family, she now believes that it is irresponsible, in today's society, to hold onto the belief that marriage will last forever. Women who choose to be housewives should still be sure to have the training, experience and capability to support themselves should their marital status change.

This article was originally intended to be a double book review, comparing the first book to the second. Unfortunately, the second book is not yet in print, so that task was impossible. Instead, I read *Ever Since Adam and Eve* while keeping in mind the fact that the author is now in a very different situation than she was in at the time of writing this book. I

expected to be amused and even offended by an anti-feminist piece of writing, but I ended up feeling nothing but compassion and sympathy for the author. There were sentences and moments in the book with which I most certainly could not agree (particularly the lovely line, "Many of my friends are women, but I would not want



my daughter to marry one"), but, for the most part, I admired her plucky voice and sentiment throughout the book.

Being recently engaged myself, I found the experience of reading this book almost painful. Reading about the rising divorce rates and hearing stories of cheating spouses and emotionally scarred children is one thing, but reading one woman's account of her blissful marriage while knowing that it will fail 17 years down the road is quite an unnerving experience. Even the little joke on the dedication page made me shiver: "I considered dedicating this to my husband until I noticed how many women dedicated first books to their supportive and understanding husbands and the husbands subsequently decided to support and understand a younger woman. Why tempt fate?" If this seemingly strong

and happy marriage failed, if marriage is really such a transitory institution in this society, then why do we keep entering into it?

One of the questions I focused on while reading this book is whether or not it is possible to be a housewife and a feminist at the same time. This question had actually never occurred to me before since it seems that everything feminism stands for runs counter to the image of the housewife. While reading this book, however, I was struck by how much of Hekker's language sounds feminist. She stresses the need for equality between men and women, but argues that the problem with women having careers is that this does not make them equal to men; this simply makes them add another job to their already long list of responsibilities and tasks. In her fourth chapter, Hekker offers evidence to support this idea: "I know a couple who work in the same office, commute together, and when they walk into their house at night he slumps in his chair, turns on the TV and asks, 'What's for dinner?'"

When I told one of my WMST professors about my engagement, she said, "Congratulations, or ... can I say congratulations for that in a Women's Studies class?" This was, of course, meant as a joke, but it is true that marriage, as an institution, is not one that is traditionally favorable to women. Even when a marriage ends, men are often favored during the divorce proceedings. Perhaps marriage, as an institution, is becoming obsolete or unrealistic in today's society. Maybe it is impossible for women to achieve true equality with this flawed institution still in place. As Hekker has been quoted as saying, "My anachronistic book was written while I was in a successful marriage that I expected would go on forever. Sadly now it has little relevance for modern women, except perhaps as a cautionary tale."

~Sara Schnick

## Sources:

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/print/0,3858,5369420-119093,00.html>

*Ever Since Adam and Eve* by Terry Hekker

<http://www.amazon.com>

The Week issue 545 1/14/2006 pg 6



# Op-Ed: Out at Alfred

I have had many opportunities, on panels in the U. S. and abroad, to discuss theoretical, political and pedagogical issues related to being an out lesbian in the university classroom. In good feminist fashion, here I'd like to connect the political and personal by sharing something of my experience at Alfred as it has helped shape my thinking about this topic, and perhaps will stimulate others to think about these issues as well.

If I were asked for a word to describe being out at Alfred it would be difficult to choose between "lonely" and "exhausting." When I came to AU in 1984, there were other lesbian/gay faculty/staff people, but no one out, at least to the AU community at large (though a few were what call "selectively out"—to a few students, colleagues, and so on). This did not change for about 15 years, which accounts somewhat for the "lonely" part. As for myself, I was neither fully out nor closeted when I arrived: I made no effort to hide my sexuality or pass as straight (could I really, anyway?), and I gradually revealed — or confirmed—my identity in various ways until I reached the point of simply assuming "everyone knows." While this stance has been immensely liberating—I'm free to worry about preparing for the next class rather than worrying about who "knows" or constantly editing my remarks for "lesbian content"—it has hardly been as simple as it sounds.

Any university campus has at least one factor complicating all this: a population that changes yearly. In effect, *being* out as a faculty member on a campus becomes a process of constantly *coming* out, often inadvertently. In other words, what was initially characterized as an *act* or series of acts (coming out) versus a *condition* (being out) is actually neither in practice, but a process defined as much by others' perceptions and assumptions as by my own statements or actions. Others' assumptions, in turn, are shaped by the powerful force of heterosexism, the ideology that defines heterosexuality as the norm and thus the majority condition. As long as the default assumption is that I'm straight, anything I say or do to indicate otherwise will be perceived as coming out (or announcing my sexuality, "flaunting" it, etc.). Examples of actions perceived as coming out include merely mentioning LGBT issues, rights or anything remotely related those topics in my

lectures, readings or discussions; mentioning LGBT events in which I've participated (such as the 1993 March on Washington for LGBT rights); clearly including myself when lesbianism is a topic (as in WMST courses) and using language that indicates I have a same-sex partner. Each of these includes interesting assumptions that I'm unable to develop in this space, but I would note that their content raises a distinction between not *caring* if students know I'm a lesbian (what I think of as being out) and *making sure* they know I'm a lesbian. While students may be inclined to see all of it as coming out, to me only the latter *feels* like coming out (especially in the nervous anticipation that often accompanies the decision to remove all doubt).

This distinction leads naturally into the positive and negative aspects of removing that doubt. The debate often revolves around if and when it is appropriate for a professor to clarify that she is not heterosexual. I would change the question to ask when it is *not* appropriate and place the burden of proof onto those who claim there *are* such times or circumstances. The very concept of "appropriateness" seems to me once again driven by heterosexism, since to be out challenges the heterosexist assumption at its core, while to insist upon partial or circumstantial outness reinforces that assumption. Whew; just explaining this is tiring, which bring me back to "exhausting."

Being the "only one" who faculty and staff for so many years was not only unexpected, but has had various results, some also unanticipated. Predictable was being the "point person" for any topic, discussion or controversy surrounding LGBT issues, not only here but for the entire Southern Tier. (Being quoted in the Olean paper about ROTC discrimination against gay people has garnered me my only hate mail to date, though I'm guessing the person who tried to tell me I was going to "burn in Hell" was acting out of Christian kindness and concern for my soul.) Of primary importance, however, is that I have been privileged to know some of the finest, bravest students to pass through AU, whether as official advisor to a GLBT group or unofficial counselor and sympathetic ear. Less predictable, early on, was the status of pariah I seemed to have gained among closeted LGBT faculty/staff at Alfred (I hadn't considered that to socialize

with me might be considered evidence of *their* sexuality), and the open hypocrisy of AU *having* a nondiscrimination policy but, under a previous administration, forcing my partner and me to fight every step of the way to get it expanded and enforced. Exhausting indeed, but less lonely, thanks only to some enlightened straight white men willing to support us.

With all that said, why come or be out? First, everyone benefits. At the very least it is the modeling of honesty to students, a value I see as part of education, and one that enhances all learning. The visibility of LGBT professors aids rather than hinders the learning process, if by learning we include challenging students' preconceived notions and stereotypes and making them *uncomfortable*.

While being an out professor is important in relation to all our students, it's especially crucial for our non-straight ones. We must all avoid heterosexism and remember that inevitably we'll have LGBT students in our classes. Whether we know who they are or not, our presence can be encouraging in ways we may never realize. In my experience, LGBT students need all the support they can get; society as it is takes care of the straight students pretty well (especially the males), so I advocate a special concern for queer youth.

All this argument rests, of course, on assumptions about the political nature of life and the goals of education. To me coming and being out is a political act, staying in a closet is a political act, becoming an educator is a political act ... everything we say or do has a politics—a relationship to power structures and institutions. In light of this, education is no less political than anything else, and I see one of its goals as revealing this reality rather than instilling any one view over another. In the U.S. we like to trumpet the values of free speech and open discussion, but our education at some levels often falls short of promoting these. In colleges and universities, however, we have the chance, even the duty, to challenge students' assumptions and, if necessary, to make them uneasy. If being out does this, I'm just doing my job.

~Vicki Eaklor  
Professor of History

# Op-Ed: Diversifying WMST: One male's view

No student should graduate from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at AU without learning the core skills of diversity studies: identifying and examining one's own and others' beliefs, thinking critically about social and biological realities, and applying critical theory.

In order to earn a degree from a liberal arts institution, one must at least get an introduction to these skills. In some respects, the current curriculum addresses these needs. One could certainly argue that any decent introductory philosophy class helps students to consider their own and others' beliefs, or that every liberal arts major teaches students how to use critical theory. Some say that, in their current form, First-Year Experience courses introduce students to issues of diversity, at least indirectly.

But these are absurdly general categories. When we ask for just a bit more – that every student learn something about the history, experience, and scholarship of people other than straight white men of reasonable means – we can see a hole or two in the current curriculum. Despite the best efforts of many faculty members, these perspectives are often relegated to a special day here or there, a break from the “regular” class.

Diversity issues are difficult to address in general history, literature or philosophy classes. For any number of reasons, the standard textbooks of each discipline focus overwhelmingly on straight white males. But addressing this imbalance across whole fields of study is an arduous, time-consuming and expansive course of action. It is a worthwhile task, and surely feminist critics and others have made some progress in shaping the compilation and editing of anthologies and the like, but the problem of male-dominated textbooks is bigger than one institution, so we would do well to focus our attentions on our own college.

We can make sure that every student

graduating with a liberal arts degree has taken a class that provides the basics of diversity education: criticism; history; and contemporary issues from varied racial, ethnic, gendered, sexual and religious perspectives.

When the FYE program started, part of its goal was to provide global awareness education in the “fifth hour,” which was meant to replace the once-a-week Freshman Forum, which the administration determined had failed. Among other things, the fifth hour was meant to “explore domestic and global diversity issues in a small-group setting.”

While discussing these issues in a small, mandatory class for first-years sometimes worked well, it was more difficult to incorporate that type of education into, say, a biology class, than it was to do the same in a world literature class. It was difficult to find faculty in every General Education category who could teach an FYE class and also feel comfortable teaching the fifth hour. Eventually, the fifth-hour was changed to its current incarnation, half academic skills and half campus citizenship.

Again, some people hold that the FYE model provides a modicum of diversity education, perhaps more effectively than the previous version of FYE, and likely more effectively than the Freshman Forum. FYE is a good program. It allows every incoming first-year student to get a General Education requirement out of the way, so the class is not burdensome, and lessons on academic skills and campus citizenship can help anyone. But I think we can do better when it comes to diversity education. We wouldn't be satisfied with a handful of hours indirectly related to history or math education, and diversity education is no less important.

One possibility would be to bring back the Freshman Forum, but with some changes. First, make it a graded class – one credit is fine. Second, base the grade not only on attendance, but also on a brief weekly paper, one or

two pages. Third, require that students pass the class before returning for sophomore year. If a student will not show the respect of attending a once-a-week lecture and putting forth some minimal effort, given two semesters, then he or she should be academically dismissed. Such a class would introduce all LAS students to the basics of diversity education, as well as introduce them to many of the faculty members who teach courses focuses on diverse issues.

Another possibility would be to simply add a diversity education class as a General Education requirement. But an extra, exclusive four-credit requirement would be burdensome to students, and every current requirement has its proponents, so it would be unrealistic to expect diversity studies to supplant an existing General Education category. But diversity education is no less central to a liberal arts education than is history, philosophy, religious studies, math, laboratory science, non-laboratory science, literature, social sciences or physical education. I do not think that a weekly lecture would be a truly adequate means of teaching the core of diversity studies – rather, I fear that is the most we could add here.

Yet another possibility would be to require that one General Education course – in social sciences or literature, for example – also deal with issues of diversity. This would be reasonable, but many courses that could fulfill such a requirement might still lack the kind of staples of diversity studies that a course dedicated to the topic would have, and some students will inevitably put it off until second semester senior year.

The world is diverse, and we should prepare students to live in it. The question is how to do so.

~Aaron Margulis

# A Joyfully Public Letter of Recommendation For Gail

I am honored and pleased to have been asked to speak at Gail Walker's memorial service as a friend. Indeed, as longstanding comrades in arms, Gail and I shared an affinity for oddity, enjoyed a modestly raucous sense of humor, respected a healthy disrespect and attempted to make circumference our business. We also appreciate, inasmuch as possible, directing our own destinies—and frequently those of other people, although Gail reminded me more than once to let the battle come to me. Thus, when I read Gail's beautifully written obituary upon her death this past spring, I knew, with all due respect to the talents of Alfred University's public spokesperson, Sue Goetschius, that Gail had written it herself. It was unmistakably Gail's voice. Gail, as usual, got the last word. In the same spirit and having made thanatopsis her business for most of her career, Gail anticipated the request that I speak as a friend in her absence. Gail wondered long ago, in Gail's words, if I would write her "last letter of recommendation."

And so I do:

September 9, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. Gail, a.k.a. "Doc" Walker, requested that I write in support of her life and high times, and I am more than happy to do so.

Steel Magnolias don't recount histories; they tell lies. Gail Walker and I have been telling lies on each other for nigh on 25 years. Looking for a place where she could live well, laughing that "loonies go to the boonies," Gail came to Alfred in 1981. I followed a year later to make the fifth woman on AU's full-time Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty. My official introduction to Gail occurred when I announced my arrival at the President's reception for new faculty by knocking out the screened door separating the parlor from the patio. Sitting with Shirley Liddle on a bench just outside said door, Gail grinned up at me and drawled, "Well, *hello*, fresh-person. You sure know how to make an entrance."

Shortly afterwards, Doc Walker invited me to join her club of Unofficial Ugliers—as an honorary member. Aware, like Emily Dickinson, that she could not stop for smiles, she pled "ignorance, not of customs, but if caught with the dawn, or the sunset see [her], [herself] the only kangaroo among the beauty it afflicted [her], and [she] thought that instruction would take it away." Consistently rebellious with a clue, constantly generous-spirited, Gail accepted me as the only kangaroo among her kind of beauty. She handpicked me to assume the position of director and protector of the Women's Studies Program she started at AU and teased me through the heat of curricular changes and Saturday morning seminars.

She approved mightily of my pint-sized daughter who remains unafraid to remove her pink slippers and black leotard and leave the ballet studio to go at once to the dojo at Davis Gym where she puts on her white gi and yellow belt to execute an alternative pirouette. Caroline still protects herself against rain with the frilly blue parasol Gail gave her to match her size-one cowboy boots.

Gail drove her truck up Waterwells Road especially to pay tribute to my son and his two cohorts who had decided to celebrate their spiritual coming of age by immersing themselves in the chilly April waters of Foster Lake. Joining my mother in peals of laughter at the dramatic extravagance of Neal's "oldtimey" baptismal ritual, Gail noted that a little cold water is good for 14-year-old boys.

She liked my husband's kilt.

We did menopause together. I have memories of a scarlet-faced Gail, sweat rolling off her forehead onto her three-hundred-dollar suit and into the hors d'oeuvres at Ed Coll's retirement party. She has memories of me glaring up over my Professor McGonagall half-frames at a hulking male student cowering in the corner, lecturing him on the sins of forgetting paper deadlines while wearing a pullover sweater, silk half-slip, and cowboy boots. Having used my office to exchange my play clothes for street attire, I had forgotten my skirt. As I'm humming "Where has all the estrogen gone?" to the tune of Pete Seeger's make-love-not-war ballad, Gail is groaning, "I didn't know I had so much estrogen in me!"

Then there was a Sunday morning about four years ago. Complacent in my flannel nightgown, enjoying late coffee and chocolate and the orange freedom of a poodle upon a chair, I get a call from Gail. "I've got crackers and I need Communion," she says. "Have you lost your mind," I say. "Yep, but come anyway," she says. So I go. Tom took his homemade grape juice, Gail had her saltines, I brought the shot glasses, and, in Gail's words, we raised a cup to Jesus. Yvonne washed the glasses. Chortling at the group picture of a semi-civilized Scotsman, a pagan Junior League Methodist, a lapsed Italian Catholic, and a Native American old-time-gospeler making a little transubstantiation together, I told Gail that she needed to call us again—and again. Communion for the afflicted conducted among such queer circumstances could not possibly take. So all four of us would simply be obliged to stick around long enough to practice our communing until we could get it exactly the way we wanted it. We never did get it just right, but we came close.

Because her life contained so much, as she put it, "fun among the terrifying," Gail has always been a way to joy for me. We cast for each other, again as she put it, "a little pool of light out there in the dark." My Okie friend more than once took the chill off these here, sometimes, bleak northern interiors. She radiated warmth towards a woman who, just once in awhile, needs to feel Carolina blue skies. And I thank her, for all of it.

AU President Charles Edmondson once described Gail as the closest thing we have to a celebrity. As magnificently flawed as she was wildly gifted, Gail Walker represents the kangaroo among the beauty, which, in turn, symbolizes Alfred, New York. For this, above all, we recommend her. And that is no lie.

Sincerely yours,  
Susan Mayberry  
Professor of English and Friend