

## **Alfred University's Riley lecturer founded Women's Studies Program at MIT**

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ALFRED, NY Dr. Ruth Perry, founder of the Women's Studies Program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will deliver the 2004 Riley Lecture in Women's Studies at Alfred University on Monday, March 22, at 4:30 p.m. Dr. Perry's talk, "Novel Relations: The Transformation of Kinship in Eighteenth Century England," will be held at the Knight Club in the university's Powell Campus Center. A reception will follow the talk. Dr. Perry is a professor of literature at MIT and past president of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. She is an internationally acclaimed authority on feminist literary criticism and 18th century English literature and culture. She is the author of four books and dozens of articles, having written on standard figures such as Pope, Austen and Hawthorne, as well as contemporary women writers such as Grace Paley and Mary Gordon. Her most recent book, from which her lecture is taken, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. "Very few people, if any, know 18th century women's history as well as Dr. Perry, and none can bring it to life so enthusiastically," said Dr. Allen Grove, English professor and Women's Studies faculty member at Alfred University. "Her scholarship is deeply interdisciplinary, bringing to literary study her interests in history, politics, sociology, psychology, and even music." Dr. Perry's talk, in fact, will begin with the performance of a couple of early ballads, said Grove. The Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley and Charles P. Riley Lectureship in Women's Studies is presented annually on the Alfred University campus. Charles Riley graduated from Alfred in 1935; Elizabeth in 1936. Their daughters, Pamela Riley Osborn, a 1962 Alfred graduate; Patricia A. Riley, a 1965 alumna; and Melissa Riley sponsor the lecture series in memory of their parents.