

AU presents Abigail Allen Award to popular psychology professor

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Dr. Gail Walker, professor of psychology, a 10-time winner of the Independent College Fund /New York State Electric and Gas Teaching Excellence Award during her 22 years at AU, this year received a different honor: the Abigail Allen Award, presented to a faculty member for "contributions in the spirit of Abigail Allen to the women of Alfred University." It was an emotional presentation, one that drew a standing ovation for Walker from her colleagues, students and their parents, gathered in McLane Center for the annual Alfred University Honors Convocation. Walker has been on medical leave since midway through the fall 2001 semester, undergoing treatment for ovarian cancer. She plans to return to her classroom with the start of the 2002-2003 academic year. A member of the faculty since 1981, Walker founded the Women's Studies minor and coordinated the program from 1982 to 1988. She continues to teach in the program, most notably courses on the psychology of women and on non-violent crisis intervention. Walker, known to her students as "Doc," "is a much-beloved member of our University community where she is known as an exceptional teacher, mentor, colleague and friend," said Dr. Karen Porter, professor of sociology, who made the presentation to Walker.