

AU senior's project highlights women entrepreneurs

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ALFRED - Alfred University student Annika K.R. Black combined her interests in art, museum studies and entrepreneurship into her senior baccalaureate degree project - an exhibition of the arts and products of 18 successful women entrepreneurs, some AU alumnae and some area women. "This is a celebration of women who have successfully created a business that allows them more personal freedom in their work," said Black. "The show is also a gathering of different disciplines that encompass entrepreneurship." Her project also includes publication of a brochure highlighting the participants' work. The exhibition, which Black describes as "an entrepreneurial arts extravaganza," will be open through Dec. 11 in Alumni Hall. AU alumna Victoria MacKenzie-Childs, one of those featured in the exhibition, will speak about her business vision and the influence that Alfred University had. MacKenzie-Childs, who earned her MFA degree in ceramic art from Alfred University's School of Art and Design in 1977, and her husband, Richard MacKenzie-Childs, a 1975 alumnus of Alfred University who earned his MFA degree in ceramic art in 1978, are founders of MacKenzie-Childs, Ltd., an Aurora, NY, based company that produces high-end furniture, dinnerware, linens, and clothing, all with distinctive patterns and styles. Other alumnae included in the exhibition are: Pamela Mack Cabanas '74, Bayville, interior design; Judith Weber Chase '59, Woodstock, weaving; Karen Gringhuis '95, Alfred, ceramic art; Linda Huey MFA '93, Alfred, ceramic art; Michelle Lockwood '89, Naples, graphic design; Pamela Mattson McDonald '79, architectural ceramics; Sarah Holland Meredith '76, Brooklyn, who has a web-based school search firm; Mary Lu Burt Wells '78, Andover, ceramic art; and Karen Tufty-Wisnewski '76, Andover, who manufactures ceramic cookware. Area women entrepreneurs include: Kay Brooks, Belmont, a potter; Joy Carlson, Alfred, an architect; Christine Joyce, Andover, president of Certified Traffic Controllers; Hannah Juekoff, Rexville, jewelry designer; Faith Palmer, Alfred, owner of The Gallery; Rita Geoppner, Wellsville, owner of Sweet Attitudes; Jane P. Karlsten, Arkport, president of Silk Road Transport; and Nana Yatani, Alfred, who is a potter and who owns Nana's restaurant. Black, who first enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts degree program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said she has always had an interest both in art and in business. When she saw an opportunity to spend a semester in Washington, attending American University's program in museum studies, she knew she had found a way to combine her interests. With the help of her committee - Kathy Woughter, director of Alfred University's Career Development Center; and professors Beth Ann Dobie and Jennifer Pepper --- she designed a Track II major that allowed her to explore all her interests. After graduation, Black plans to return to Washington with the goal of working in a museum - at least until she gets her own business started. Black, a graduate of Mount Blue High School is a daughter of Mrs. Marlies Reppenhagen for Portland, ME, and Stephen Black of Newton, MA.