

## Riley Lecture set for April 4

3/23/05

Vivian Lowery Derryck, senior vice president and director of Public-Private Partnerships at the Academy for Educational Development, will deliver the annual Riley Lecture at 5:30 p.m. April 4 in the Knight Club, Powell Campus Center. Her lecture is entitled "Forgotten Wars, Abandoned Lives: Reclaiming Peace in the 21st Century." Her talk, she says, will focus on conflicts in Africa, such as those in Sudan and Liberia, in the hopes that she will be able to galvanize students into becoming citizen activists for world peace. "We are extremely fortunate to have a speaker who can illuminate the social and political impact of war and peace, and who can place these issues in Africa, where their impact has been so profound," said Dr. Laura Greyson, professor of Political Science and head of the Women's Studies Program at AU. "Above all, Vivian Lowery Derryck has a commitment to civic activism that offers critical teaching to our students and makes her a deeply engaging speaker." Derryck was selected as this year's Riley Lecturer as a result of a friendship with Pamela Lakin, a research services librarian at Herrick Library and assistant director of Study Abroad programs at AU. "I have known Vivian Lowery Derryck since she arrived on our small women's college (Chatham College) as a freshman," said Lakin. "Vivian studied Political Science, as did I, and it is no surprise to me that she used her strength and determination to do so much good for so many." "I had lost touch with her until last fall, when I visited an organization in Sarajevo, Bosnia, that deals with trafficking in women," Lakin said. "I opened a newsletter and found Vivian again. She has spent her entire career as an activist helping women and trying to aid the peoples of Africa. She will bring home to us in Alfred what one can do if one is willing to get involved and make a difference." Each year, the Riley Lecture brings to the AU campus a distinguished speaker on issues relating to women today. The Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley and Charles P. Riley Lectureship in Women's Studies is presented annually on the Alfred University campus. Charles Riley '35 and Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley '36 met while they were students at AU and married in 1938. Their daughters, Pamela Riley Osborn '62, Patricia A. Riley '65, and Melissa Riley generously sponsored the lecture series in memory of their parents. At the inaugural lecture in April 1996, Dr. Karen Porter, former director of the Women's Studies program, noted that the lectureship "validates the work of women's studies. It reaffirms our sense of community, and it helps make that community visible." The Academy for Educational Development is a 43-year-old, U.S.-based private voluntary organization (PVO) which concentrates on education, health, and economic development in the United States and more than 80 countries abroad. Previously, Derryck served as the assistant administrator for Africa of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where she was the senior government official directing foreign assistance to Africa, administering a budget of more than \$900 million per year. A veteran foreign affairs specialist, Derryck has held numerous positions in both government and the private sector, including deputy assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of State; executive vice president of the National Council of Negro Women; vice president of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs; president of the African-American Institute; senior advisor of the Africa Leadership Forum; and executive director of the Washington International Center. With a rich background in foreign affairs and international development, Derryck has worked in more than 35 countries in Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean. Earlier in her career, she taught at New York City Technical College and developed African curricular materials at the Education Development Center in Boston. She spent four years teaching at the University of Liberia and working with the Ministry of Education to develop a national social studies curriculum. A graduate of Chatham College (BA) and Columbia University (MIA), Derryck is listed in Who's Who and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Bretton Woods Committee. She serves on several non-profit boards and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Guggenheim Humanitarian Award, Martin Luther King Service Award and an honorary doctorate from her alma mater.