

Abigail Allen Award honors 3 AU women

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Three women have been named to receive the 2001 Abigail Allen Award, an honor that keeps alive the memory of one of Alfred University's most respected foremothers. The three are Dr. Sharon Hoover, who is retiring after the spring 2001 semester from the English Division and the Women's Studies faculty; Pamela Strother, a 1991 graduate who is now executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association; and Emilie Hardman, a graduating senior who has edited *The Alphadelphian*, the women's studies newsletter, since the fall of 1999. Hoover and Hardman received their awards at the spring 2001 Honors Convocation. Strother will receive hers Friday (April 20) at the last Women's Studies Roundtable of the 2000-01 academic year. "It's quite an honor. To think that people in Women's Studies appreciate what I've been able to bring to the department is satisfying," said Hoover, who has been part of the Women's Studies faculty since the program was founded in 1985. She has taught both English and Women's Studies courses, including, for example, "International Women Writers." She says she is especially pleased with the high Women's Studies enrollment. Hardman, a graduating Women's Studies minor, has edited the women's studies newsletter two years. She has completed several projects on issues of gender and sexuality, including a project titled "'Oh Bondage, Up Yours!' Examining Gender Difference in a Content Analysis of Punk Albums," which she was invited to present at a national women's studies conference. Pamela Strother came to AU as a transfer student from George Washington University and graduated cum laude in 1991 with a Women's Studies minor and Track II major in "Women, Politics, and the Media." In addition to her most recent employment with the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association in Washington, DC, she has worked for other activist organizations, including the Feminist Majority and Zero Population Growth. This is the third year for the award, first presented in the spring of 1999. Abigail Ann Allen is remembered for her efforts on behalf of women's rights as the wife of AU's second president, Jonathan Allen. She was active not only in the University community, where she was a role model and advocate of coeducation, but also in women's suffrage, temperance, and reform. After her death in 1902, the 1902-03 yearbook remembered her with these words: "She was a woman of rare ability and charming character, and her influence will be felt and esteemed in Alfred University for many generations to come." Emilie Hardman and two other Women's Studies minors, Mandy Nourse and a graduating senior who wants to remain anonymous for now, will present their independent study projects at the Women's Studies Roundtable at 12:20 p.m. Friday (April 20) in the Campus Center Knight Club. NOTE: Sarah Guariglia, a sophomore at Alfred University, contributed substantially to this story.