

Law professor, former ACLU president Strossen slated to give annual Riley Lecture

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Nadine Strossen, past president of the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union, 1991-2008) and current professor of law at New York Law School, Manhattan, will present the 2015 Riley Lecture in Women&s and Gender Studies at Alfred University (AU) on Tuesday, March 31 at 5:30 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. The program is open to the public free of charge.

Strossen&s talk, "Sex, Gender, and Civil Liberties on the American College Campus," will address the dilemmas involved in reconciling the contemporary emphasis on protecting women against inappropriate and /or illegal sexual conduct with the need to provide constitutional protection for the civil liberties of the accused.

Strossen has written, lectured, and practiced extensively in the areas of constitutional law, civil liberties, and international human rights. As president of the ACLU, she was the first woman to head the national largest and oldest civil liberties organization. She is currently a member of the ACLU&s National Advisory Council.

The National Law Journal twice named Strossen one of "The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America." In 2005, she was honored by the University of Tulsa (OK) College of Law and the Tulsa Law Review, which made her scholarly work the subject of their fifth annual Legal Scholarship Symposium, entitled "Nadine Strossen: Scholar as Activist."

Strossen has made thousands of public presentations before diverse audiences, including on more than 500 campuses and in many foreign countries. She has commented frequently on legal issues in the national media, having appeared on nearly every national news program. Her writings have been published in many scholarly and general interest publications.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the Harvard Law Review, Strossen practiced law for nine years in Minneapolis (her hometown) and in New York City before becoming a law professor.

The University has hosted the Riley Lectureship in Women&s and Gender Studies annually since 1996. Charles Riley and Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley were alumni, he graduating in 1935, she in 1936. Elizabeth was a local activist involved in women&s rights issues. Their daughters, Pamela Riley Osborn &62, Patricia A. Riley &65, and Melissa Riley sponsor the lecture series in memory of their parents. The Riley sisters& gift is a completion of the memorial Charles Riley had planned for his wife but had not completed before death.