

# Title IX gave Freligh access to equality

STAFF WRITERS

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Sara Freligh was one of the first women in sports writing and one of the first women to be allowed behind the doors of a male locker room.

There are only a select few who have had the privilege to see what really goes on behind the scenes in the world of sports.

Freligh, professor of creative writing at St. John Fisher is one of these select few.

While working in Fort Myers, Fla., Freligh was given full access to the Miami Dolphins' players.

Although she was allowed in their locker room, the players harbored resentment towards her due to her gender.

"The reason that women wanted to get in the locker room was that we wanted the same access as men," Freligh said. "We wanted to ask questions in a timely fashion because we had a deadline too."

Freligh was born in Michigan, was unsure of what the future held for her and her career.

She received a job at a daily newspaper, taking basketball and football scores over the phone and writing blurbs. This job helped Freligh realize she wanted to pursue journalism while studying.

Her career began at a time when women were just beginning to gain equal rights in



Dan Olek

*Sara Freligh has worked as a sport writer, a producer for RNews and is currently a creative writing professor.*

sports with the issuance of Title IX, which permitted that women's sports received equal federal funding. As a sports reporter, Freligh was able to use the advancement of women's sports to her advantage in her own career. She knew that women had a great deal to offer the sports world.

"Women write about sports from a more personal angle, rather than from the angle of statistics and numbers," Freligh said. "Women know that the numbers don't tell the whole story, the personalities do."

After years of moving up into more well-known publications, she found herself at the Phila-

delphia *Inquirer*.

"If you're a sportswriter, you want to be in a city like Philadelphia, where they have professional teams," Freligh said.

While employed at the *Inquirer* she continued to face hostility because of her gender. "I was constantly feeling like I had to prove myself," said Freligh.

After 14 years, Freligh outgrew her position as a sportswriter while she was working in Philadelphia because she was tired of constantly having to prove herself to a new editor or new sports team.

"It just didn't seem important anymore," Freligh said.

It had always been a dream of Freligh's to write a novel. She moved to Rochester in 1991 to live "a writer's life."

She was interested in finding a job that was going to help her get by while she focused on writing.

In 2001, an opening for professor of creative writing became available at Fisher and she jumped at the opportunity.

Today, Freligh is not only a professor, but also a producer of RNews.

She finds pleasure in having

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Sara Freligh,  
Creative Writing

two jobs that compliment each other but that are essentially different.

Recently, she was awarded a grant from the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts. This grant helped her to focus more exclusively on her writing.

She is currently working on a novel that will be released some time next year.

"The judge thought that my entry was the best of the bunch. That probably meant more than the money," Freligh said.

"But you can't take that to the bank." Being one of the first female sports writers working in a "man's field" has given her a better outlook on life, and opened up more opportunities for her future.

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## Title IX Education Amendments of 1972

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- 1) Classes of educational institutions subject to prohibition.
- 2) Educational institutions commencing planned change in admissions.
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