

Aging is a puzzle; AU tries to put it together

4/10/02

The Alfred University Gerontology Program will host a conference, "The Aging Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together," Friday, April 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, on the AU campus. The conference, according to organizer Dr. Robert Maiden, professor of psychology and coordinator of Alfred University's gerontology program, is intended for health care professionals, students and members of the community. Those planning to attend are asked to call the AU Psychology Department at 607 871 2213. Cost is \$15 per person, and includes registration, lunch and all materials. Keynote speaker is Dr. Frederick John Marshall of the University of Rochester. His talk, "Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease: What's Going on Around Here?," is scheduled for 9 -10:30 a.m. While Alzheimer's disease, a progressive illness of the central nervous system, is the most common cause of dementia, there are many other diseases that cause similar symptoms. Marshall intends to review current approaches to the diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. Those attending the conference may participate in two of the four workshops being offered. The first session will be 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., with the second to be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The four workshops are: "Elder Abuse," presented by Art Mason, a certified social worker, who will explore detailed descriptions of the categories of elder abuse, who the victims and the perpetrators are, and the underlying dynamics. He will also present an overview of existing laws, and what is and is not being done in New York State. "The Science and Practice of Prescribing Medications for Older Persons," presented by Dr. Daniel Tartaglia, a specialist in the care of elderly patients. Tartaglia will offer tips for patients, families and health care givers on how to make sure elderly patients are taking their medications properly. "Caregiver Stress and Burnout," conducted by Debra Fromm Faria, a certified social worker. Faria will discuss risk factors for caregiver burnout, and how burnout can affect behavior, attitudes and family life. She will offer intervention and prevention strategies. "Depression: How Will You Get It and What Can You Do about It?" offered by Dr. Robert Maiden, a professor of psychology and coordinator of AU's gerontology program. Maiden will discuss the definition of depression, its symptoms, its incidence and presence in the general and older populations. He will present a standardized depression scale that may be used to measure levels of depression and symptoms. Conference sponsors are the Alfred University Gerontology Program, the Allegany County Office for the Aging, the Allegany/Western Steuben Rural Health Network, S2AY Rural Health Network, the Steuben Health Network, the New York State Society on the Aging and the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center.