

Bergren Forum speaker will depict 'Endeavors in Art and Agriculture'

3/20/15

Alfred University's (AU) longstanding lunchtime series, the Bergen Forum, continues Thursday, April 2, at 12:10 in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. The speaker will be Cassandra Bull, an AU fine arts major and an agricultural technology major at Alfred State College.

Her presentation, "131: Endeavors in Art and Agriculture," will detail her experience spending 24 hours with a cow and how this became a part of her interdisciplinary attitude towards art, agriculture, and the ethics of dairy. Bull won this year's AU Phi Beta Kappa Wit and Wisdom Award using the essay version of her program.

Bull's presentation will be a sculptural performance piece, involving video and creative writing, with a strong dichotomy between feelings and facts, art and sciences. There will also be a questioning dialogue that incorporates numbers, structure, imprisonment, the ethics of dairy, cognitive dissonance, homemade vs. the mechanized, and what it means to keep your humanness while being part of an industrial system.

The Bergen Forum is sponsored by the Division of Human Studies, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost's Office. Guests are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch; coffee and tea will be provided.

The series known as the Bergen Forum was begun by Rich Bergen, who taught at the University in the '70s when he was inspired by learning of the gatherings that AU students in the 19th century were known to conduct in Alumni Hall to discuss community issues. After Bergen's death in 1974, the University decided to continue the tradition in his name. Various faculty members have taken on the coordinator duties since that time.