

## **Panel to look at sustainable future during Jan. 31 Bergren Forum**

1/15/08

In conjunction with the national Focus the Nation Day on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008, the first Alfred University Bergren Forum of the spring semester will feature a community panel discussion on the sustainable future of the village. The program, which begins at 12:10 p.m. in the Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center, on the AU campus, is open to the public free of charge. "Focus Alfred! (on a sustainable future)" will include various members of the greater Alfred community who will share their thoughts on the topic. This presentation is one of several events being held on Jan. 31 on both Alfred campuses and in the village as part of a nation-wide "teach in" on the theme of sustainability, particularly, though not exclusively, as it relates to climate change issues. More than 1,000 institutions across the United States, including AU and Alfred State College, are holding similar events, organized by the group "Focus the Nation." The Bergren Forum, sponsored by the Alfred University Division of Human Studies, meets Thursdays during each academic semester at the University. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch; coffee and tea will be available. Other events planned during the day including a fair, running from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Knight Club in the Powell Campus Center, on the Alfred University campus, featuring hands-on activities like "tracking your carbon footprint," explaining how each individual affects the environment. There will be a movie, "The 11th Hour," created, produced and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, which begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Engineering Science Building on the Alfred State College campus. A panel discussion will follow the presentation. "The 11th Hour" takes "a look at the state of the global environment including visionary and practical solutions for restoring the planet's ecosystems."