

## **Bergren Forum to Kick X with comic book characters**

2/28/13

Alfred University student Bellisant Corcoran-Mathe will present the next Bergren Forum program based on her piece, "Kicking X and Taking Genes: Genetic Mutation of X-Men." The lecture will take place on Thursday, March 7 at 12:10 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. This event is free and open to the public.

Ever wonder if there is any truth behind the comic book characters which make up so much of American culture? As the winner of the campus's 2013 Phi Beta Kappa Wit and Wisdom competition, Corcoran-Mathe, a sophomore theater major, will deconstruct the genetic mutations of the X-Men and discuss our potential to develop these mutations in the future. She will provide insight into pivotal X-Men characters such as Magneto and The Beast and divulge on what would be necessary (besides toxic chemicals) for future generations to become evil-fighting superheroes.

The Alpha Gamma of New York Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Alfred University sponsors the competition to foster excellence in the liberal arts and encourage undergraduate students to become inspiring public speakers. The competition also provides an opportunity for students to present their scholarly or creative written work in a University-wide public forum.

Phi Beta Kappa is considered to be among the most prestigious of honor societies in the United States since its founding in 1776, and is dedicated "to the ideal of excellence in the liberal arts and sciences." To be eligible to have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, colleges of liberal arts & sciences must meet the society's rigorous academic standards and be approved by the membership. There are fewer than 300 colleges roughly 15 percent nationwide that have been granted a Phi Beta Kappa chapter. Alfred University was awarded a chapter in 2003 and installed its first members in April 2004.

The Bergren Forum, sponsored by the Alfred University Division of Human Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, meets Thursdays during each academic semester at the University. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch; coffee and tea will be available.