

AU Poet to speak at Bergen Forum

2/02/05

Dr. Benjamin Howard, Alfred University professor of English and distinguished literary scholar, will be giving the Feb. 10 Bergen Forum. It is titled "Stays Against Confusion: Modern Poetry and Buddhist Meditation." Howard's discussion will explore affinities between modernist poetics and Buddhist meditative practice. He will explore subjects such as perspective, purpose, and attitude between modern poetry and Buddhist meditation. He will be examining poems by William Carlos Williams, Wallace Stevens, Gary Snyder, Billy Collins, Jane Hirshfield, and other modern and contemporary poets. Howard received his B.A. at Drake University. He received his M.A. in English and Creative Writing, and Ph. D. in English Literature from Syracuse University. Reared in the Midwest, he is well versed in Irish culture and literary history. Meditation is one of his passions. Dr. Howard has traveled to Great Britain, Ireland, France and Denmark. He's written eight books, including five collections of poems and countless other essays. His works include *Dark Pool* (Salmon 2004) and *Midcentury* (Salmon 1997). He's an internationally known poet who also plays the guitar. He's spent more than 30 years teaching in Alfred. The Bergen Forum will be held at 12:10 pm, Thursday, February 10. Sponsored by the division of Human Studies, the forums meet in Nevins Theatre, where coffee and tea will be provided. All Bergen Forums are open to the public and free of charge.