

What the bones tell us: Sigma Xi lecturer to discuss paleodemography

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The Alfred University Chapter of Sigma Xi will sponsor the 2004 Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecture by Dr. Richard Meindl, entitled " Health, Aging and Age Structure of a Prehistoric American Indian Population from Northwestern Ohio." Meindl's lecture, supported by a subsidy from Sigma Xi - The Scientific Research Society, will take place at 8 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 10th, in Room 421 in the Science Center on the Alfred University campus. The lecture is directed towards a general audience and is open to the public, free of charge. Meindl is professor and chair of the Anthropology Department at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. He earned his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Drawing upon his extensive field research and publications on paleodemography, Meindl will explain patterns of life, aging, death and birth in prehistoric populations, based on his investigations of 1,000-year-old skeletons found at a lakeside village cemetery. The bones, according to Meindl, can tell investigators much about the health and demography of the American Indian people who lived in that area at that time. His field, paleodemography, borrows from forensic science, medicine, archaeology, and modern ethnography. Among his authored or co-authored publications are "Recent Advances in Method and Theory in Paleodemography", "Fetal age: Methods of estimation and effects of pathology", Pattern and process of growth of the abnormal human fetus", "The Maka femur and its bearing on the antiquity of human walking: Applying contemporary concepts of morphogenesis to the human fossil record" and "Sexual dimorphism in *Australopithecus afarensis* was similar to that of modern humans."