

Annual H.O. Burdick Lecture March 21

3/14/07

The 17th annual H.O. Burdick Lecture in Biology will feature Dr. Kimberly S. Bostwick of Cornell University talking of "Playing a Wing Instrument - Solo Performances by a Rainforest Bird" on Wednesday, March 21, at 8 p.m. in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall. Bostwick, a graduate of Alfred-Almond Central School, "will lead the audience in the discovery of "a very special natural phenomenon. Male Club-winged Manakins, a small colorful bird found in the Ecuadorian Andes, have evolved special wing structures that allow them to make unique sounds to seduce females during courtship. Come see the sights, hear the sounds, and share the wonder of this evolutionary gem," beckons Bostwick. "For my research, I have managed to travel extensively to study various species of birds," she said. "I have done research in Ecuador, Peru, Guyana, Argentina, Paraguay, South Africa and Papua New Guinea. Most of my research has focused on the evolution of behaviors and anatomy in birds that sonate (make sounds with their wings)." Bostwick earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from Cornell University. She then spent three years between undergraduate and graduate school traveling, working as a research assistant for various field projects, and bird-watching, especially in Arizona. She earned a doctoral degree from the University of Kansas, finishing in 2002 when she began as research associate and curator of the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates. H.O. Burdick joined the Alfred University faculty in 1931 as associate professor of biology. He was promoted to professor and chairman of the department in 1937, posts he held until his appointed as acting dean (1948) and dean (1950) of the Liberal Arts College. Five years later he returned to teaching, retiring in 1962. Burdick was a pioneer researcher in the field of hormonal control of reproduction. The H.O. Burdick Memorial Fund supports the annual lecture, which features a keynote speaker in either the field of biology or medicine.