

Forum series begins with 'Politics of Popular Culture'

1/22/14

Dr. Erin Redmond, assistant professor of Spanish at Alfred University (AU), and three students will lead the Jan. 30 Bergren Forum presentation “Argentina: The Politics of Popular Culture.” Their program launches the spring semester for the noontime series which runs Thursdays at 12:10 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center throughout the academic year. The forum is open to the public free of charge.

The three students - Samantha Randall, a senior early childhood/childhood education major from Cortland; Allyson Sicke, a senior Spanish major from Wayland; and Daniella Stebe, a junior psychology major from Plainview, NY, will highlight their final, original research projects which are part of the study abroad course Redmond led in June 2013. The experience was made possible through the Pamela (AU &71) and Gene (AU &69) Bernstein Fund for Faculty and Student Development.

These presentations will include findings on modern Argentine culture:

- Randall will discuss the relationship between the Falkland Islands War and the Argentine-British soccer rivalry.
- Sick will discuss individual and collective efforts to preserve memory of the people who were disappeared during the dictatorship in Argentina (1976-83) specifically focusing on the Mothers and Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who began marching in the plaza during the dictatorship and continue to do so every Thursday.
- Stebe will discuss the different cultural influences that combined to form the tango as we know it today.

After each student presents, there will be a question-and-answer period during which the students will talk not only about their research, but also about their study-abroad experience.

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. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch; coffee and tea will be available.