

AU students to explore historical, contemporary Iroquois culture

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The First Year Experience, a program for freshmen in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Alfred University, and the Department of Education of the Seneca Nation of Indians will bring "Historical and Artistic Reflections on Contemporary Iroquois Culture" to the AU campus for a day-long program April 18. All sessions are open to the public free of charge. The program, which is open to the public free of charge, will open at 10 a.m. with a presentation by Pete Jemison entitled "The Peacemaker's Journey," scheduled for Nevins Theatre at Powell Campus Center. Jemison will be discussing the ancient beginnings and the founding of the Great Iroquois Confederacy, which enabled warring nations to lay down their weapons and take on the responsibility of securing peace for the people and future generations. From 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., three artisans will be conducting mini-lectures on traditional Seneca art forms in the Kenyon-Allen-Davis Rooms at Powell Campus Center. Joe Curry will be presenting sessions on Iroquois crafts at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Debbi Hoag will be talking about making cornhusk dolls at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Penny Minner will be talking about basket-making at noon and 3 p.m. Each mini-lecture will last about 20 minutes. A series of hour-long lectures will be held during the afternoon. They include: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Pete Jones, a ceramic artist, "A Career Retrospective," Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall. 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., Carson Waterman, painter, "Cultural Survival: A Retrospective on Work since 1970," Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall. 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., John Mohawk, "The Relevance of Indian Sovereignty," Nevins Theatre, Powell Campus Center. Mohawk will discuss Indian jurisdiction in the United States and New York State, touching on land claims as well as federal, New York State and Indian laws. 3:45 - 4:45 p.m., Barry White, "The Dawn's Early Light: Recording the Earliest Blessings of Liberty," Nevins Theatre, Powell Campus Center. White will discuss the historical, economic and spiritual significance of wampum and the impact of stereotyping wampum use. Between 3:30 and 5 p.m., Sharon Huff will be serving Iroquois food in Susan Howell Hall. From 5-6 p.m., Bill Crouse and The Allegany Singers will entertain at an Iroquois social in Howell Hall. First Year Experience was initiated last year in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to give students a "broader cultural and global experience," according to Dr. William Hall, dean of the College. With support from the Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation, the College revamped its freshman forum with a program that "exposes students to concepts of race, ethnicity and gender, and how those forces shape human experience."