

Noted author to speak at AU

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Ted Conover, a noted author who based his book, "New Jack: Guarding Sing Sing," on his year's experience as a corrections officer in New York's Sing Sing prison, will speak at 8 p.m. Sept. 17 in Nevins Theatre, Powell Campus Center, on the Alfred University campus. Conover's book was initially banned by the New York State Department of Corrections, and is now censored before inmates are permitted to read it. The Washington Post called "New Jack: Guarding Sing Sing," "an amazing book about life in prison 'New Jack' is about as good as it gets - by turns gripping and funny, frightening, and sad. The stories are spellbinding and the telling is clear and cold. But Conover doesn't just want to chill us or gross us out. He wants us to think about prisons and rethink them." The book is on USA Today's list of 10 best books for 2000; was named a New York Times Book Review "notable book of 2000;" and appeared on the Library Journal's list of best books for 2000. Conover is a contributing writer for the New York Times Magazine and spent last fall semester leading a seminar on prisons as a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He is a summa cum laude graduate of Amherst College and attended Cambridge University as a Marshall Scholar. His appearance at Alfred University is sponsored by the National Endowment for Humanities; Psy-chi Club and the Division of Criminal Justice Studies.