

Forum speakers to explain Alzheimer's Glass, Iron Project

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Senior art major Rosemarie Oakman, along with Alfred University (AU) professors Coral Lambert and Robert Maiden, will be presenting “The Alzheimer’s Glass and Iron Project” as part of Alfred University’s ongoing Bergren Forum series. The lecture will take place on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 12:10 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. The event is open to the public free of charge.

The Alzheimer’s Glass and Iron Project is a cross-generational, multi-step project using the classic arts of metal casting and glassblowing to raise awareness of Alzheimer’s, a disease which inhibits thinking, memory, and behavior of over five million Americans.

Through the Project, AU students volunteer with local Alzheimer’s and dementia patients, who create watercolor and iron-oxide artworks. Members of the Alfred University Foundry Guild then render molds based off of these works, which are used to produce metal and glass sculptures inspired by the memories and interests of Alzheimer’s patients. These sculptures are to be auctioned off this spring; proceeds will directly benefit the Alzheimer’s Association. Chapters of the Project have also been established in Salem, NY and Birmingham, AL.

The Alzheimer’s Glass and Iron Project was founded by Oakman, who fused her love of metalworking with a passion for helping the elderly. She first interacted with Alzheimer’s and dementia patients through volunteering at local nursing homes with the AU Golden Years Club, of which she is founder and president. Oakman says she hopes to eventually earn a master’s degree in art therapy and to continue to be involved in the Alzheimer’s Glass and Iron Project.

Lambert, adviser of the Foundry Guild, is associate professor of sculpture at AU. She received a master of fine arts degree in sculpture and extended media from the University of Manchester in England and a bachelor of fine arts from Canterbury School of Art in Kent, England. She then served as an international research fellow at the University of Minnesota from 1995-98. Her work has been exhibited across the world, including in China, the United Kingdom, New York, and New Orleans. She is the recipient of numerous awards such as a Jerome Fellowship and the Gottleib Foundation Award.

Maiden is adviser to the Golden Years Club and professor of psychology at AU. He has authored and co-authored numerous books and journal articles, including several book chapters counseling grandparents on rearing grandchildren. Maiden is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and the American Society of Gerontology in Higher Education, as well as a Diplomat-Fellow in psychopharmacology. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in English literature from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the New School for Social Research, New York City.