

Next Bergren Forum to feature diversity, social change in China

9/25/08

Dr. Cecilia Beach, associate professor of French at Alfred University, will present "Diversity and Social Change in Southwestern China," on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008, at the Bergren Forum, 12:10 p.m. at Nevins Theatre, Powell Campus Center. This event is free of charge and open to the public. Beach explains, "Last June I participated in a CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar in China entitled 'Diversity and Social Change on the Southwest Frontier.' In my Bergren Forum I will share some of the information I learned and some of the experiences I had while on this seminar. "We traveled for two weeks in the provinces of Sichuan and Guizhou. We started in Chengdu, the largest city in the area hit by the earthquake last May, and ended in a small mountain village inhabited by the Miao ethnic minority."In addition to lectures on socio-economic development and ethnic diversity in western China, we visited such tourist sites as the Chengdu Research Base for Giant Panda Breeding, Huangguoshu Falls, and Emei Mountain, one of four sacred Buddhist mountains in China. "Beach received her Ph.D. in French from New York University. She received the Alfred University International Fellowship for Faculty Development in 2005 as well as the Alfred University National Endowment for the Humanities Endowment Fund Grant for Research Expenses in 1998, 2000, 2001, 2004, and 2005. The Bergren Forum, sponsored by the Alfred University Division of Human Studies, meets Thursdays during each academic semester at the University. Participants are encouraged to bring lunch; coffee and tea will be provided.