

AU hosts Literary Festival

3/10/08

The Alfred University English Department will host the Alfred Literary Festival Thursday, March 27 through Saturday, March 29. Authors Stewart O'Nan and Erica Dawson will be the special visitors during this event. The public is invited to participate in the festival sessions. On Thursday, Dawson will present a reading in the Knight Club, Powell Campus Center, starting at 5:30 p.m. Friday's events include book signings by O'Nan, Dawson, and Carol Burdick, Alfred University professor of English emeritus, in the Alumni Lounge, Powell Campus Center, beginning at 3 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. O'Nan will present a reading in Susan Howell Hall. The last event on Friday will be an Open Mic sponsored by Sigma Tau Delta in Susan Howell Hall at 8:30 p.m. On Saturday there will be a Literary Roundtable starting at 2 p.m. featuring O'Nan, Dawson, and Alfred University Visiting Assistant Professors of English Lynn Petrillo and Rahul Mehta. O'Nan is the author of 11 novels. He has had success with titles such as, "Last Night at the Lobster," listed on Entertainment Weekly's Top Ten Fiction Books of 2007; "Snow Angels" and "A Prayer for the Dying." His two non-fiction titles include "The Circus Fire" and "Faithful." Kate Beckinsale and Sam Rockwell will star in the film adaptation of "Snow Angels" being released this month by Warner Brothers. More information about O'Nan is available at www.stewart-onan.com Dawson is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University. She has a master of fine arts degree from The Ohio State University where she was awarded the Academy of American Poets Prize. Currently, she is working on her Ph.D. at the University of Cincinnati. Dawson is the author of "Big-Eyed Afraid," winner of the 2006 Anthony Hecht Prize from Waywiser Press. More information and sample poems are available at <http://waywiser-press.com...> "CB" Burdick, part-time faculty member in the AU English Department, has published a paperback, "Haps & Mishaps," a collection of many of her columns which have appeared in The Alfred (NY) Sun. Rob Price, editor of the Bath (NY) Courier, writes, "These finely chiseled essays offer vivid representations of Carol Burdick's natural world, ranging from a reedy beagle in search of a free lunch to an antique bed loaded with memories; from a doomed road trip through Naples (NY) to the ups and downs of operating a wood-burning stove." The 172-page volume is available at the Alfred University Book Store.