

Alfred University Phi Beta Kappa chapter to sponsor lecture

4/07/05

The 2005 Phi Beta Kappa Fellows Lecture, sponsored by Alfred University's Alpha Gamma of New York chapter, will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 21, in Susan Howell Hall on the AU campus. The speaker is Robert J. Richards of the University of Chicago, whose topic is "Darwin's Romantic Biology." The lecture is open to the public, free of charge. A reception for Richards will follow the lecture. All are invited to attend the lecture and to meet Dr. Richards at a reception following. Richards is professor of history, philosophy, and psychology at the University of Chicago, as well as director of the Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine. He joined the faculty in 1978, after earning his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, and is recipient of the Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and the Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching. He has also been a visiting professor and the Fidia Lecturer at Harvard University. Richards has published on the history and philosophy of biology and psychology, as well as German Romanticism. He has particular interest in evolutionary biopsychology, ethology, sociobiology, theories of perception from the ancient period to the present day, and Darwin's metaphysics. He won the Pfizer Prize from the History of Science Society and the International BioPhilosophy Forum (Belgium) prize for his book, *Darwin and the Emergence of Evolutionary Theories of Mind and Behavior* (1988). He has also published *Darwinian Heresies*, co-editor (2004), *The Romantic Conception of Life: Science and Philosophy in the Age of Goethe* (2002), and *The Meaning of Evolution: The Morphological Construction and Ideological Reconstruction of Darwin's Theory* (1992). In addition, he has published dozens of articles on evolutionary theory, historical interpretation, science, nature, altruism, and ethics. Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and most prestigious honorary society for Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Among the more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the United States, fewer than 300 colleges have Phi Beta Kappa chapters, and Alfred University is among them.