

'Environmental Spirituality' talk opens Environmental Seminar Series

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The Rev. Dr. Barbara A. Dumke will open the Alfred University Environmental Seminar Series with a talk on "Environmental Spirituality: Science and Religion as Partners." Her talk is scheduled for 12:20 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, in Roon Lecture Hall in the Science Center on the Alfred University campus. The seminars are open to the public, free of charge. In her talk, the Rev. Dr. Dumke will use "Coming Home - to Earth," her doctoral dissertation that she completed in June, as the basis for a discussion of Earth as "our home - the sacred place where we live in relationship with all life." "Twentieth-century science completely rewrote the story of our universe so that now we understand how fully connected all creation is," said the Rev. Dr. Dumke. In her seminar, she will present "a spiritual approach to assist persons in deepening their relationship with the universe, Earth and life." During her doctoral program, the Rev. Dr. Dumke studied with Matthew Fox, Brian Swimme and several other scientists as she developed a unique methodology that brings together science and spirituality. She first presented her approach at Iona Abbey, an important European center for spirituality education, located in the western island of Scotland. The Rev. Dr. Dumke and her husband, the Rev. Dr. Eugene Wahl, who is an assistant professor in Alfred University's Environmental Studies program, were the first non-Europeans invited to teach an intensive, week-long seminar at Iona Abbey. She continues to teach at Western New York area churches, and has taught as an adjunct faculty member at more than a dozen colleges, including the University of Wisconsin in Madison and Oshkosh. She has published articles and chapters in two books, and is preparing her dissertation for publication. She holds three master's degrees, in the fields of urban planning, divinity and theology. The Division of Environmental Studies at Alfred University sponsors the popular seminar series at 12:20 p.m. each Friday during the fall semester, except for Oct. 12, the Friday before fall mid-term break and Nov. 23, the Friday after Thanksgiving. Baked goods and other refreshments will be served during the seminar.