

'Scholarship in the Digital Age' to be topic at Bergren Forum

4/20/09

Ellen Bahr, Chad Harriss, and Mark Smith will conclude the Alfred University Bergren Forum series for the 2008-09 academic year on Thursday April 30, when they present "Revolutions in Scholarship: Rethinking Scholarship in the Digital Age." The lecture will take place at 12:10 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Camus Center, Alfred University Campus. Together, Bahr, Harriss, and Smith will look at recent innovations in scholarly communication, including such things as new technologies, new publishing paradigms, and experimentation with peer review. Harriss, assistant professor of communication studies, will begin the program by defining scholarship and its associated practices. Harriss's work focuses on electronic media and the roles these media play within broader cultural formations and structures. Smith, information systems librarian and librarian at Scholes Library of Ceramics, will illustrate some characteristics of new scholarship through examples, and Bahr, assistant librarian at Herrick Memorial Library will describe some of the challenges and opportunities brought about by new modes of scholarly communication. The program will conclude with open discussion. Bahr has primary responsibility for development of information systems in Herrick. She also provides library instruction, contributes to development of the library's collections, and leads the library's public relations working group. Her current interests include active learning approaches to library instruction and the use of open source systems in libraries. Smith is a former president of the SUNY (State University of New York) Librarians Association and received a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship in 2004. He has served as the librarian representative on the SUNY Provost's Faculty Access to Computer Technology Advisory Council for 12 years. He also serves the College of Ceramics as campus representative to the SUNY Center of Professional Development and was recently appointed to the New Media Consortium Horizon Project Advisory Board. 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 a lunch; coffee and tea will be available.