

AU archivist McFadden '91 to examine KKK activity

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Laurie McFadden '91, Alfred University (AU) archivist and librarian, will examine the University's Ku Klux Klan fraternity as the longstanding lunchtime series, the Bergren Forum, continues Thursday, Sept. 24, at 12:10 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. The program is free and open to the public.

In her talk, "Friend or Foe: The KKK at Alfred University," McFadden will examine the fraternity and the time period in which it was active on campus. Her findings will be used as a case study to illustrate the need for reactions and assumptions to be based on historical, not contemporary, context.

McFadden earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from AU and a master's degree in library science from the University at Buffalo.

The Bergren Forum is sponsored by the Division of Human Studies, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost's Office. Guests are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch; coffee and tea will be provided.

The series known as the Bergren Forum was begun by Rick Bergren, who taught at the University in the '70s, when he was inspired by learning of the gatherings that (AU) students in the 19th century were known to conduct in Alumni Hall to discuss community issues. After Bergren's death in 1974, the University decided to continue the tradition in his name. Various faculty members have taken on the coordinator duties since that time. William S. Dibrell, professor of philosophy, is the current coordinator.