

Environmental forum speaker will explain to audience 'What the Nose Knows'

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Greg Cunningham, associate professor of biology at St. John Fisher College, Rochester, will present on “What the Nose Knows: Making ‘Scents& of Avian Olfaction” as part of Alfred University&s Environmental Studies Speaker Series Friday, Oct. 25 at 12:20 p.m. in the Science Center&s Roon Lecture Hall (Room 247). Admission is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

Cunningham&s research is focused on the intersection of animal behavior, ecology, and physiology of a variety of bird species, with emphasis on avian olfaction or sense of smell. In the field, he is currently working with the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds to study the sense of smell of African penguins. Cunningham was among the first to successfully demonstrate that penguins have a functioning sense of smell. He is also interested in how odors can be used to alter the stress physiology of a bird.

The Environmental Studies Speaker Series at Alfred University takes place every Friday of the fall semester while the University is in session. Sponsored by the Division of Environmental Studies within the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the series brings a range of speakers to campus, including scientists, activists and policy-makers, with the mission to better understand our environment and what we can do to better sustain our world.