

## Bergren Forum speaker to share pleasures and pitfalls of DIY lifestyle

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Christopher Romanchock, director of the Children and Youth Learning Initiative at Alfred University, will present "The pleasures and pitfalls of the DIY lifestyle" on Thursday, Feb. 25, during AU's Bergren Forum at 12:10 p.m., at Nevins Theatre in Powell Campus Center. This event is free of charge and open to public. Romanchock will explore the motivations that drive people to reject mass-produced culture and embrace a do-it-yourself (DIY) lifestyle through his own experiences as well as notable examples culled from reading about how to render lard, tan hides, and build one's own tractor. "My motivations for independent living are manifold, chief amongst them though is concern for the quality of life that is sold at Wal-Mart," Romanchock said, "although food, clothes and entertainment might be cheap there, I believe that the time saved in buying all of your needs ready-made just gives you more time to buy more rubbish from, say, Wal-Mart." Romanchock will touch on his motivations and spend time on his tips for people interested in getting involved in DIY. "I run a hobby farm and grow most of my own food including meat and eggs. I am interested - and marginally successful - as a brewer, soap maker, vintner, blacksmith, mechanic and cabinet maker," said Romanchock. For more information about his DIY tips, contact Romanchock at [romanchockc@alfred.edu](mailto:romanchockc@alfred.edu). Romanchock graduated from Alfred University in 2002. In addition to being director of the Children and Youth Learning Initiative, he teaches history at AU. 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.