

November 'Roundtable' will explore dynamics, issues in India

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Visiting professor in the English Department, Rahul Metha, will read his short story "Floating" for the Alfred University Global Awareness Roundtable, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2007, at 7 p.m. in Powell Campus Center's Knight Club, on campus. The talk is open to the public and free of charge. Set in Rajasthan, India, the story explores the power dynamics between tourists and the locals who make their living off of them. The piece also deals with homosexuality, which is still underground and illegal in India, and with the increasingly urgent problem of dwindling clean water supplies. Rahul holds a master of fine arts degree in creative writing from Syracuse University, where he was the Cornelia Carhart Ward Fellow. His fiction has appeared in *Noon*, *Fourteen Hills*, *The Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere. His short story "The Better Person" was selected by Robert Olen Butler as a finalist for the 2005 Zoetrope Short Fiction Award. The Global Awareness Roundtable is a monthly event organized by the Division of Modern Languages. It is designed to introduce a variety of cultures from around the world to the Alfred Community. This informal gathering gives AU's international faculty, students and alumni the opportunity to introduce attendees to an array of countries and cultures throughout the world.