

AU to host guest speaker for Constitution Day event Sept. 17

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Alfred University (AU) will mark Constitution Day 2012 by hosting a guest speaker who will focus on the Emancipation Proclamation.

The public is invited to hear Dr. Timothy J. Madigan, associate professor of philosophy at St. John Fisher College, Rochester, on Monday, Sept. 17, as he presents "Foreign Policy and the Emancipation Proclamation: Europe's Contribution to American Freedom" at 7 p.m. in the Knight Club, located in AU's Powell Campus Center. Admission is free.

There will be a door prize of historical value awarded at the conclusion of the presentation, sponsored by the Alfred University Provost's Office.

Madigan, author of numerous books and articles, will discuss how Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation helped to prevent both England and France from recognizing the Confederacy. He will also highlight the role played by Secretary of State William Seward in the manner in which the Proclamation was released to the world.

Constitution Day recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who are American Citizens. Although similar holidays have been observed since 1911, it was not until 2004 that a law officially establishing the holiday was created. Constitution Day always occurs on Sept. 17, although it may be observed on another date if Sept. 17 falls on a weekend or another holiday.

Many educational institutions observe Constitution Day by presenting videos about the United States Constitution, distributing Constitution memorabilia, and hosting Constitution-themed fairs and websites.