

Cormack named visiting professor in London

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- Dr. Alastair N. Cormack, the Van Derck Frechette Professor of Ceramic Science in the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science and director of the Graduate School at Alfred University, has been granted a five-year honorary appointment as a visiting professor at the University College London. As a visiting professor in the Department of Chemistry, Cormack will have opportunities to undertake collaborative research with researchers at a leading British university, and will be able to open up opportunities for other Alfred University faculty and students. The term of Cormack's appointment is five years. Cormack, who joined the AU faculty in 1985 and was promoted to the rank of professor in 1992, served as associate dean for graduate programs in the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science from 1991-92, and then served a five-year term as dean, from 1992-97. He has served as director of graduate programs for the school since 1998. Considered to be among the leading researchers today in the field of computer modeling of materials, Cormack focuses on the atomic-scale physics and chemistry of materials, particularly ceramics and glass. He uses computers to model the way in which atoms are arranged in solids, and how that arrangement of atoms affects their properties. Through modeling, Cormack and other researchers are able to design materials that have desired properties to meet a variety of applications. He is a frequent lecturer on the topic, invited to speak at conferences, colleges and universities around the world. Cormack is a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society, the Society of Glass Technology, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Mineralogical Society (United Kingdom). He received his B.A. degree from the University of Cambridge (Pembroke College), a Master of Science degree in solid state chemistry from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the same institution.