

Alfred University to honor top students Saturday at annual Commencement

5/11/18

ALFRED, NY Alfred University will recognize four students for top academic honors during the 182nd Commencement that begins at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Galanis Family Arena, McLane Center, on the Alfred University campus.

Beryl Torthe, a psychology major from Pretoria, South Africa, is the top student from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, with a 3.98 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale. She is the daughter of Catherine Bourely and the late Jean-Yves Torthe.

Reed McLean earned top honors in the School of Art and Design with a 3.98 grade-point average. He is the son of Don McLean and Suzanne Best of Norway, ME, and is a graduate of Oxford Hills High School in Norway, ME.

Taylor Kelley, a mechanical engineering major, is the top graduate in the Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering, with a 3.98 grade-point average. She is the daughter of Fred and Heather Kelley of Wellsville, NY, and is a graduate of Andover Central High School.

Amber Cramp, an accounting major, is the top student in the College of Professional Studies with a GPA of 3.90. She is the daughter of Ian and Lori Cramp of Hornell, NY, and is a graduate of Hornell High School.

The University will award two honorary degrees Saturday. One will go to Don McPherson, an Alfred University alumnus who earned a master's degree in glass science in 1984 and a Ph.D. in glass science in 1988. He is co-founder and chief science officer at EnChroma Labs, which has developed lenses that correct most forms of color-blindness. McPherson, who is the keynote speaker for Saturday's commencement ceremony, will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Michele Cohen, a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, will receive an honorary Doctor of Arts degree. Cohen has been a trustee since 2001 and serves as chair of the Student Affairs Committee. She and her husband, Marty, have been generous supporters of the arts at Alfred, creating the Cohen Art Center for the first-year Foundations program and the Cohen Gallery to spotlight alumni artists; sponsoring several senior shows in New York City for Alfred University students, and most recently, establishing the endowed deanship for the School of Art and Design.

Students who completed their course work in August and December 2017, as well as this week, will walk across the McLane Center stage to receive their degrees Saturday. The University will award six doctoral degrees, 66 master's degrees and 351 baccalaureate degrees. A separate ceremony will be held June 1 in Brooklyn, NY, for the 129 students who completed their master's degree programs in the University's New York City program.