

Japanese industrialist doubles scholarship endowment at Alfred University

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Dr. Kazuo Inamori, founder of Kyocera Ceramics, an advanced ceramic materials manufacturer that has developed much of the technology behind today's most-popular consumer products, has more than doubled an Alfred University scholarship fund he created in 1996. Inamori, who received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Alfred University in 1988, announced during a recent visit to campus that he is adding \$300,000 to his scholarship fund to assist AU students majoring in art or engineering. The gift brings the total fund to more than \$500,000. Each year, four students - two from the School of Art & Design and two from the School of Engineering - are named Inamori Scholars. "We are profoundly grateful for Dr. Inamori's continued support of our students," said Dr. Charles M. Edmondson, president of Alfred University. "This generous gift will allow us to expand the number of Inamori Scholars." "It is my pleasure to be called an alumnus of Alfred University," Inamori said. "Being here, I really feel that this is my alma mater." Alfred University is also the alma mater, he noted, of many employees of Kyocera around the world, and he is appreciative of the education they received from AU. "As long as I live, I will not forget Alfred University," Inamori said, noting that he is pleased that the University has been able to use the scholarship funds to benefit so many students. "I like to do things to help this University." Joining Inamori for dinner that night were a current student and three alumni, all of whom have benefited from the Inamori Scholarships. They included: Devin Anderman, currently a sophomore in the School of Art & Design who is also taking courses in psychology to prepare for a career in art therapy. She is a residence assistant, tour guide, member of the Student Alumni Association and works at the Alfred Montessori School. She also plays in the AU chamber orchestra. James Carroll III, a 2003 cum laude graduate of AU with a degree in ceramic engineering. Named a State University of New York distinguished scholar as an AU senior, Carroll is now enrolled in a master's program in materials science and engineering at the University of Illinois-Champaign. Jennifer Guard Morse, also a 2003 graduate of Alfred University, received a BFA degree with concentrations in mold-making, ceramics and paper. She also minored in art history and art education, and is now working on a master's in education at AU. Erik Pavlina received two degrees - one in materials science and engineering and one in electrical engineering - when he graduated from AU in 2003. He is currently enrolled in a master's program in electrical engineering at AU. Inamori is founder of Kyocera, an international advanced ceramics company that last year did more than \$6 billion worth of business. Inamori and his company have been successful in leading advances in ceramic processing, developing new materials, and creating new products. In recent years, Inamori has also founded several telecommunications businesses in Japan. He also founded the Kyoto Prize, which is awarded annually to three recipients, selected on a worldwide basis for their outstanding achievement in the basic sciences, advanced technology, and the creative arts and humanities. Each recipient receives a prize of \$500,000.