

## Coll Concludes 18-year Presidency as one of AU's Newest Alumni

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Alfred, NY -- Edward G. Coll, Jr. - make that Dr. Edward G. Coll, Jr. - concluded his 18-year tenure as president of Alfred University with simple words of thanks in a less-than-five-minute valedictory. Speaking at Alfred's 164th commencement ceremony Saturday morning in McLane Center on the AU campus, Coll said, "Eighteen years ago, almost to the day, I stood before you here to be inaugurated as Alfred University's 12th president. Today, I use the same occasion to say goodbye as I conclude this rich and rewarding experience. "But I can't walk away without thanking several groups of people," added Coll. "First, the faculty. I don't know of any other institution where a president received so much broad support," he said. "Second, my administrative colleagues who work so hard, who are so creative and so successful. I bask in their reflected glory. "But the most important group is this University's Board of Trustees. As I have told them so often through the years, they are one of the best governing boards of any institution in the United States, and maybe the world. They are truly a distinguished, successful collection of talented individuals who are very committed to this University's long-range goals. We would never have made the progress we have (over the past 18 years) without them," Coll said. "For Carole (his wife) and I, this has been a memorable experience," said Coll. "Goodbye. God bless you, and good luck." The Board of Trustees used the occasion, however, to bestow upon Coll an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. It was, noted Provost W. Richard Ott, a continuation of a Alfred University tradition begun in 1857 when AU awarded its first honorary degree. "Over the past 142 years, there have been many distinguished recipients of honorary degrees, and today, it is my pleasure to continue our tradition of celebrating excellence." Presenting Coll for the honorary degree was Trustee Robert McComsey, a 196x graduate of Alfred University and a member of the search committee that chose Edward G. Coll, Jr. as AU's president in December 1981. McComsey praised Coll as a man "who, with his warmth and wisdom, vision and style has led this University toward the 'rendezvous with greatness' he predicted for us 18 years ago when he became the 12th president of Alfred University." He recalled that Coll frequently proclaimed, "I just the water boy," the person who raised the money to build and renovate buildings, provide endowment for scholarships and faculty support, and expand and create programs. "But we all knew that his role went far beyond that of fund-raiser," said McComsey. "From the first, he had a vision for Alfred University. 'The best is yet to come,' he promised us, and then he made it happen. "Eighteen years ago, when the Alfred University Board of Trustees selected Edward G. Coll, Jr., to lead this institution, we hoped that we had found a good president for Alfred. What we found was a great president, a man who most assuredly has taken his place among the greatest leaders of this fine institution," McComsey concluded. Also addressing students were Ann R. Jones, a communications studies major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Michael J. Pellicciotti, a business administration major in the College of Business, as the recipients of the Outstanding Senior awards. Nominated by the faculty, the recipients are selected by a screening committee. Top graduates were: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Melissa Ann Them of Endwell, a psychology major, and Shane Robert Walton, Manheim, PA, who has a dual major in philosophy and political science. Both had four-year grade-point averages of 3.98 on a 4.0 scale School of Art and Design: Monica Sharone Putter of Alfred. 3.93 GPA. School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science: Shandon Dee Hart of Trumansburg, 4.0 GPA. College of Engineering and Professional Studies: Eric John Telfeyan of Little Compton, RI, mechanical engineering major, with a 3.88 GPA. College of Business: Aaron Todd Alsheimer of Bath, 3.99 GPA. The University conferred four Ph.D. degrees in ceramic engineering and glass science, and 13 Doctor of Psychology degrees in school psychology. Thirteen Master of Fine Arts degrees were awarded, along with 14 Master of Science degrees in ceramic engineering, three in glass science in engineering, three in materials science and engineering and one each in electrical engineering, industrial engineering and mechanical engineering. There were 17 Master of Arts degrees in school psychology conferred, as well as 20 Master of Professional Studies degree in community services administration. Fifty-nine received Master of Science degrees in education and 19 earned their Master of Business Administration degrees. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences awarded 195 baccalaureate degrees; the School of Art and Design, 111 Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees; the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science, 41 Bachelor of Science degrees; and the College of Engineering and Professional Studies, 28 B.S. degrees; and the College of Business, 90 Bachelor of Science degrees in business administration.