

## Students receive SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

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Two Alfred University students - Megan Bisbee, a senior in the School of Art & Design, and Katherine Sieg, a senior majoring in ceramic engineering in the School of Engineering - were among the 264 students from 60 State University of New York (SUNY) campuses to receive the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Each of the honorees has excelled both in academic achievement and in at least one of the following areas: leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts or career achievement, noted Robert King, SUNY Chancellor. This year's recipients of the Chancellor's Award have an overall grade point average of 3.75 and include student government leaders, a recipient of a National Science Foundation Teaching Fellowship, a hospice volunteer, a violinist who has performed at Carnegie Hall and minority and cultural awareness activists. As for the Alfred University recipients, both are top of their classes in their respective schools. Bisbee has already gained national attention as an artist, and Sieg has been recognized by her supervisors in an industrial co-operative work-study experience and in an academic internship funded by the National Science Foundation. "The recipients of this year's Chancellor's Award are not only some of the brightest and hardest working students in SUNY, but have made major contributions to their communities," said Chancellor King. "They represent the enduring commitment the university has made to attracting and nurturing a diverse and intelligent student body, and the commitment our students make every day to themselves and their community by continuing to achieve. They are our future, and that future is bright," King added. Awardees were selected by campus committees, who reviewed exemplary members of their college communities who are graduating and submitted nominations to the Chancellor's Office for recipients of the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Although Alfred University is a private institution, it administers the New York State College of Ceramics, which includes the School of Art & Design and four programs - ceramic engineering, glass science engineering, materials science engineering and biomedical materials science engineering programs - in the School of Engineering, under a contract with the State. The New York State College of Ceramics was established by an act of the State Legislature in 1900, nearly 50 years before the SUNY system was created, and it is one of five statutory colleges in the state; the other four are administered by Cornell University. Bisbee was one of 30 artists, out of a pool of hundreds from the Northeast, whose work was selected to appear in the edition of "New American Paintings," published in February. The nominating committee noted it is rare for an undergraduate student, competing against professional artists with years of experience, to be so honored. She was also invited by John Massier, the curator of Hallwalls, to participate in a group show with three graduate students, all from Alfred University's MFA program, and four professional artists from Buffalo. She was one of 90 finalists, from among hundreds, whose work was considered for inclusion in the regional art show, "Western New York and Beyond, 2005" at the Albright Knox Gallery in Buffalo. Bisbee, who has been on the Dean's List each semester during her four years at Alfred University, was one of three art students whose work was featured in the fall 2004 edition of "The Crucible," the journal of undergraduate research at Alfred University. Her work is also featured on the School of Art & Design's new website: <http://art.alfred.edu> In the Alfred University community, Bisbee is a tutor in the AU Writing Center, providing assistance to other students who want to learn to become better writers, and has also tutored a student from South Korea. She is working toward certification as a facilitator for Alternatives to Violence workshops, and is a member of the Art Union, representing the students in conversations with the AU administration about a grant to assist underprivileged children and families in the area. Her portfolio and academic achievements earned Bisbee an Alfred University Trustee Grant to spend a semester in Florence, Italy, with 11 other AU students. A graduate of Cedar Falls High School, Bisbee is the daughter of David and Tamara Bisbee of New London, NH. Sieg is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, an honor society whose membership is limited to the top 7.5 percent of last-term juniors in all colleges and schools at Alfred University; a member of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society; and a member of Keramos, the national professional ceramic engineering honor society. She was the recipient of a highly competitive National Science Foundation grant for undergraduate research experience, and spent from June to December 2003 working under Dr. Timothy Boyle at the University of New Mexico on development of new precursors for advanced ceramic materials using inert atmosphere equipment. Sieg also spent from June to December 2004 at St. Gobain Igniter Products, working on the optimization of injection molding feedstock for ceramic igniters; the solvent and thermal debinding mechanisms and the development of pressure-less sintering cycle for injection molded parts. On campus, Sieg is an Alfred University tutor, offering assistance to students taking two of the most difficult courses offered: organic chemistry and solid state

physics. She has also conducted weekly two-hour tutoring sessions for students enrolled in general chemistry (2002-2003); organic chemistry (2003-2004); and electrical, magnetic and optical properties of materials (2004-2005). Only students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and understanding of the course material are selected to be tutors. She has been both an engineering tour guide and a campus tour guide for prospective students and their families. Sieg is chapter secretary for the Alfred University student chapter of the American Ceramic Society, and served as vice president of Alpha Lambda Delta, the national honor society for first-year students. Sieg is a daughter of Christopher and Janet Sieg of Hillsborough, NH, and is a graduate of Bishop Brady High School.