

## **Alfred University Appoints 13th President in 164-year History**

2/23/00

Alfred, NY - Dr. Charles M. Edmondson, currently the vice president for Academic Affairs and provost at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, will become Alfred University's 13th president. Dr. Gene M. Bernstein, chairman of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, made the announcement today. Edmondson will assume the presidency July 1st upon the retirement of Edward G. Coll, Jr., who has led the institution for the past 18 years. "In Dr. Edmondson, we have found an inspiring leader who can further advance Alfred University's already fine academic reputation," said Bernstein, who also chaired the search committee. The search committee and the Board of Trustees were impressed with the depth and breadth of Dr. Edmondson's experience at Rollins College, an institution very similar to Alfred University in character and complexity, and his ability to emphasize that institution's traditional strengths while offering innovative academic programs to meet the needs of today's students - and tomorrow's. "In addition to his impeccable academic credentials and demonstrated leadership, Dr. Edmondson has a proven record in fund-raising, enrollment management and financial aid, and has supervised areas as diverse as information technology and campus safety," said Bernstein. "I am honored by the opportunity to join the Alfred University community," said Edmondson. "Under the leadership of Ed Coll, Alfred has successfully maintained both high standards of academic achievement and a strong commitment to the personal growth of students. I am confident that in the years ahead, Alfred University will attain even greater levels of excellence and recognition as one of America's best small universities." "Deciding to retire, to leave an institution that has been my life for the past 19 years is difficult for me," said Coll, "but knowing that I leave Alfred University in the hands of someone as talented and capable as Dr. Edmondson reassures me that the institution will continue to move forward in the years to come." The parallels between Coll and Edmondson are striking. Like Edmondson, Coll came to Alfred from a Florida institution, the University of Miami, where he had spent 19 years. And like Coll, Edmondson spent his career at one institution before deciding to come to Alfred. Edmondson, who has been chief academic officer at Rollins College since 1993, has served the College in various capacities over the past 30 years. Administrative positions included associate provost (1992-93); dean of the Hamilton Holt School (evening programs for adult students and graduate programs in liberal studies, counseling, and education, 1991-93); and director of College Planning (1988-90). He joined the faculty at Rollins College in 1970 as an assistant professor of History, and was made a full professor in 1981. His research has focused on Soviet history. Edmondson was a visiting professor at Wuhan University, Wuchang, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, in 1983. He was named a Phi Beta Delta International Scholar in 1992; received a Pew Faculty Fellowship in International Relations from the Pew Memorial Trust and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1991-92; was appointed a Fellow of the Danforth Foundation, serving 1980-85; and was awarded an Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship on three occasions, 1973-74, 1978-79, and 1991-92. In 1989 and 1990, he was director of a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for School Teachers, and in 1987, he participated in the Fulbright Seminars Abroad Program in its Seminar on Korean Culture and History in Seoul, Korea. He has also received numerous awards for distinguished teaching. Edmondson earned a B.A. degree, magna cum laude, and an M.A. degree in history, both from the University of Mississippi. He received a Ph.D. degree in history from Florida State University, and has continued his education at the Newberry Library Institute for Family and Community History and at the Harvard Institute for Educational Management. Edmondson and his wife, Dr. Laura Greyson, Professor of Political Science at Rollins College, are the parents of an 11-year-old daughter, Erica. Alfred University, founded in 1836, has an enrollment of about 1,900 undergraduate and 400 graduate students. An independent, non-sectarian university, Alfred comprises the privately endowed colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Business and Engineering and Professional Studies, as well as the 100-year-old state-supported College of Ceramics, with its School of Art and Design and School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science. It offers bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as doctoral degrees in ceramic engineering, glass science and school psychology. Its programs in ceramic art and ceramic engineering are ranked tops in the nation; overall, for 12 years, the University has been ranked among the top 15 regional universities in the North by U.S. News and World Report.