

NYSTAR to deliver check for pilot plant

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Dr. Russell Bessette, executive director of the New York State office of Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR), will be in Alfred Thursday (April 27) to present a check for \$1.8 million. The funds are a NYSTAR grant to the Alfred University Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT) and Clarkson University's Center for Advanced Materials Processing (CAMP) to "develop pilot plant facilities and expertise in the synthesis of nano-sized particles and subsequent processing and consolidation into nano-structured ceramic components with enhanced properties." What that means is that Clarkson University's Center for Advanced Materials Processing will develop molecular-sized building blocks for new materials. Alfred researchers will then process and test the new materials for their suitability for use in the manufacture of electronic components. Nanotechnology is engineering on a molecular scale, creating new materials by designing them atom-by-atom, molecule-by-molecule, to give them specific properties, such as strength or toughness; the ability to conduct heat or electrical current; or compatibility with the human body. Dr. Vasantha Amarakoon, director of the Alfred CACT, hopes to have the pilot plant equipment in place and operational in the Ceramic Corridor Innovation Center on Route 244 in Alfred within the next several weeks. Joining Bessette and Amarakoon for the check presentation, which begins at 9 a.m., will be Dr. Charles M. Edmondson, AU president; Thomas Wilber, chairman of the board of Alfred Technology Resources, Inc, which owns and operates the incubator facilities in Alfred and Corning; Dr. S.V. Babu, director of CAMP; Dr. William C. LaCourse, acting associate provost for Statutory Affairs and Dr. Alastair N. Cormack, dean of the Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering at Alfred University. A reception and tour of the facilities will follow the ceremony, which is the first event in a day full of activities planned to mark the occasion. Dr. Adrian C. Wright, professor of solid state physics at the J.J. Thomson Physical Laboratory, University of Reading, will deliver the 2006 Samuel R. Scholes Sr. Lecture, "GLASS: Genesis to Apocalypse," at 11:20 a.m. Thursday, April 27, in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, on the Alfred University campus. Following a luncheon for invited guests, there will be a workshop, "The Role of University/Industry Collaboration in the Current Climate of Globalization and Outsourcing," beginning at 2 p.m. in Nevins Theatre, Powell Campus Center. Cormack will welcome guests. Presenters, in addition to Amarakoon and Babu, will include: Dr. Guven Yalcintas, vice president of technology transfer for the State University of New York (SUNY) Research Foundation, Albany, NY. Professor Ted Hagelin, director of the New York State Science and Technology Law Center and director of the Technology Commercialization Research Center at Syracuse University. Marjorie Zack, director of sponsored research services at Rochester Institute of Technology. Douglas Mann, operations director for procurement and transportation, Corning, Incorporated, Corning, NY. John Olenick, president, EnrG Incorporated, Buffalo, NY.