'Peek' performance earns McMahon Achievement Award
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Jennifer Peek, a senior glass science engineering major at the Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering at Alfred University, is this year's recipient of the McMahon Achievement Award for outstanding performance while in a co-operative work-study experience.Peek, who is a graduate of Hammondsport Central School and the daughter of Donald and Mary Jane Peek of Pulteney, NY, spent the spring semester working at Pratt & Whitney - United Technologies in East Hartford, CT.In nominating her for the award, which is presented annually to the engineering student with the most exemplary co-op experience, Manager Raymond K. Kersey wrote Peek "had an immediate positive impact from the first day she was here." She was assigned to the Engine Rotor Life Extension program, and was also asked to manage the tensile test area, running both standard and non-standard tests. "A particularly important job in the tensile test area was the O-ring Viton project where she managed, executed and presented the results of the testing" through two phases of the program, Kersey wrote. "The scope of the O-ring Viton project was the characterization of strength and ductility data for the rubber O-rings and to establish protocol for this unique testing procedure."As a result of Peek's work, the procedure will be implemented "as the established Pratt & Whitney standard work for O-ring testing," Kersey said, and the "results of this study will unify testing procedures, while following ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials Standards), to reduce industry data scatter when comparing data between all military divisions, British Petroleum Corp., Exxon Mobile and Pratt & Whitney."Jennifer has been an asset to the lab as a good experimentalist as well as a dependable and reliable engineer," Kersey said.The Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering offers biomedical materials engineering science, ceramic engineering, electrical engineering, glass science engineering, materials science engineering and mechanical engineering. The programs in biomedical materials, ceramic engineering, glass science and materials science are part of the NYS College of Ceramics, and, as such, are supported in part by state funds so that New York State residents may enroll in those programs at a reduced tuition rate.