

Engineering major receives SUNY Chancellor's Award

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Marissa Tousley, a senior materials science major in the Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering at Alfred University, is one of 249 students to receive a State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Tousley, who will enter Yale University for a graduate degree in engineering after receiving a B.S. degree from Alfred University in May, was nominated for the award by Linda E. Jones, associate vice president for Statutory Affairs and head of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. The SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence recognizes students who have "excellence academically and taken advantage of what SUNY has to offer inside and outside the classroom," said SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher. "These students are proven leaders, athletes, artists, community servants and much more." Tousley, who earned a 3.90 grade-point average, began her college career by earning the Scholes Scholar Award, presented to the first-year student who achieved the highest grade-point average among those enrolled in the state-supported engineering programs, which include biomedical materials science and engineering, ceramic engineering, glass science engineering and materials science engineering. She received a Tau Beta Pi scholarship, presented by the national honor society for engineers; was named the outstanding junior student in the state-supported curriculums; earned a scholarship from the Akron, OH, Section of the Society of Plastics; received a SPIROL Corp. scholarship for academic achievements and community services; and also received a Women's Network/Judith Resnik Scholarship, an academic award for "talented female students pursuing careers in science, math or engineering." Tousley served as president of the Alfred University chapter of Tau Beta Pi; held the offices of vice president and secretary of the Alfred University chapter of the Society of Women Engineers; was secretary to the Alfred chapter of Materials Advantage; and served in several leadership positions in Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. She was a member and subcommittee chair for the Relay for Life/Colleges Against Cancer committee; assisted with the Science on Wheels program, which provides science outreach to students in kindergarten-12th grade in area schools, and participated in an Engineers without Borders program while doing a semester abroad at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, fabricating low-cost, household-scale water treatment devices. A member of the Dean's List each of the semesters she was enrolled at AU, Tousley completed an internship at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland in 2007; participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates at the University of New Mexico-Albuquerque during the summer of 2008; completed a Research Experience for Undergraduates at Washington State University-Pullman, summer of 2009; and worked as an intern for Schott North America in summer of 2010. She has been a co-author on two peer-reviewed papers and one poster. Tousley is the daughter of Dan and Brenda Tousley of Stow, OH, and is a graduate of Woodridge High School.