

Incoming Alfred University students already have homework assignment

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Alfred University's incoming students - 490 freshmen and 112 transfer students - already have their first homework assignment, which is due Wednesday (Aug. 28) when they arrive on campus. They have been asked to read an essay, "Peregrination to the Physical Periphery: A brief trip through space," written by Dr. Stephen Pilgrim, associate professor of materials science and engineering, in the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science at Alfred University. Dr. Pilgrim will deliver the opening convocation address, "The Future: Space and the World Community," at 11 a.m. Wednesday in McLane Center on the AU campus; it's the first event in a five-day orientation for new students before the start of classes on Monday, Sept. 2. On Wednesday evening and on Thursday, new students will attend "model classrooms," during which there will be discussions and assignments based on Pilgrim's speech. "It's a way for students to get a taste of what college classes are like, and how to prepare for them, as well as a way for us to create a common academic experience for all students," says Dr. David Szczerbacki, provost and vice president of academic and statutory affairs. "We hope to provide some themes that can be followed throughout the semester" in the students' academic programs, added Szczerbacki. "This year's enrollment is very strong," said Scott Hooker, director of Admissions at Alfred University. Although freshman enrollment is down slightly, from 509 last year to 490 this year, transfer enrollment surged by 33 percent, from 84 last year to 112 this year, so the total number of incoming students is up from 593 a year ago to 602 this year. Freshman enrollment in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is up 18 percent, from 210 last year to 248 this year, Hooker noted, and business increased from 44 to 53, the highest it has been in four years. Overall, enrollment in the private colleges at Alfred University - Liberal Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Professional Studies, and Business - was up four percent over last year. "We saw an enrollment dip in engineering programs, both public and private, but that reflects national trends. Engineering programs nationally are down," said Hooker. In addition to the private College of Engineering and Professional Studies, which offers degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering, Alfred University has a state-supported unit, the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science, which offers degrees ceramic engineering, materials science and glass science. Enrollment in the private engineering programs is down 11, from 47 to 36, and enrollment in ceramic engineering and materials science dropped from 55 to 33. The University's other state-supported unit, the School of Art and Design, is also down slightly, from 121 a year ago to 111 this year. Twenty-five new faculty members, both tenure-track and visiting professors, arrive on campus Monday for a series of meetings prior to the arrival of students. Returning students will be moving into residence halls over the weekend.###