

AU researcher receives nation's highest award for young scientists

5/04/04

Dr. Carl Boehlert, an assistant professor of materials science in the School of Engineering at Alfred University, is one of 57 researchers who will be honored in a White House ceremony today as recipients of the Presidential Early Career Awards, the nation's highest honor for professionals at the outset of their independent research careers. Presiding over the White House ceremony will be John H. Marburger III, science advisor to the President and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Each will receive a citation, a plaque and a commitment for funding of their work from their nominating agency for the five years. "This is a well-deserved honor for Carl Boehlert, who is one of Alfred University's most-talented young researchers," said AU President Charles M. Edmondson. "It is also a great honor for the University and our School of Engineering to have Professor Boehlert recognized for his work," Edmondson said, pointing that all the other award-winners come from much larger universities than Alfred University, and include some of the country's most prestigious research institutions, such as Harvard, Stanford and Cornell. Boehlert was one of seven researchers funded by the Department of Energy and its National Security Administration to be nominated for the Presidential honors. Prior to the White House ceremony, Boehlert and his fellow DOE honorees described their work at a ceremony at DOE headquarters, hosted by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. At the same time, Boehlert was one of two researchers to receive the Office of Defense Programs Early Career Scientist and Engineer Award. The directors of the national weapons laboratories nominated the recipients in recognition of their work in support of the administration's national security mission. Boehlert's research involves structural intermetallics and metal matrix composites. "Each of these researchers has made a distinctive contribution both as an independent investigator and as a team member," said Abraham. "Individually and collectively, they continue to be sources of invaluable technical direction and expertise in support of the department's research and development and national security missions." Boehlert was also recognized by Governor George Pataki and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno as a James D. Watson Investigator through the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR). The funding he receives from NYSTAR supports his research into a methodology to evaluate the microstructure-property relationships of biocompatible titanium alloys. He was also the recipient of a 2002 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award. A member of Alfred University's School of Engineering faculty since September 2001, Boehlert is a graduate of Cornell University. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D degrees in materials science and engineering from the University of Dayton where he studied the physical metallurgy of advanced titanium alloys and their composites. While at Dayton, Boehlert worked at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's Research Laboratory and then completed two years as a post-doctoral fellow in the mechanical engineering department at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to coming to AU, he completed two years as a post-doctoral research fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory's Nuclear Materials Testing Group. Boehlert and his family make their home in Wellsville. The School of Engineering at Alfred University includes the internationally acclaimed programs in ceramic engineering and glass science, as well as degree programs in materials science, biomedical materials engineering science, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering.