

Professors receive summer research grants

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Faculty members in the School of Art and Design and the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science will receive assistance from Alfred University to undertake research projects this summer. The grants range from \$1,000 to \$2,000, said Dr. Robert K. Bitting, associate vice president for research and sponsored programs. Recipients are: Xiaowen Chen, assistant professor of printmaking, School of Art and Design, for a video project entitled, "Night & Day: Double Life of Chinese Girls." Chen, a native of China, will document the lives of three Chinese girls growing up in their adoptive American families, contrasted with the lives of three girls who remained with their Chinese families. Diane Cox, associate professor of sculpture, School of Art and Design, who plans to mow readable text in fallow fields near her Andover, NY, home so that the text is visible to passengers in aircraft at altitudes up to 30,000 feet. Dr. Rebecca DeRosa, assistant professor of materials, School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science, will oversee a research project involving the use of silica nanoparticle-filled polyimide coatings to improve scratch-resistant coatings on glass tubes used for centrifuge tubes in laboratories. The tubes are common lab accessories which are exposed to a variety of solvents, oils, and biological chemicals, as well as to high temperatures and high humidity. DeRosa and her student assistant hope to develop a coating that can withstand those conditions. Joseph Scheer, associate professor of print media, School of Art and Design, will create an interactive web site, "The Moths of Allegany County," using the high-resolution scans he has made of moths he's collected in Allegany County. The 8,200 dpi digital images he's produced are "simply stunning," and much more detailed than those found at other web sites. His new site will be linked to "The Moths of New York," a project of the U.S. Geographical Survey, which is trying to capture and store on web sites information on moth species throughout the United States on a county-by-county basis.