

Former AU professor to deliver annual McMahon Lecture

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Former Alfred University professor, Dr. Linda Jones of Smith College, Northampton, MA, will deliver the annual John F. McMahon Lecture at 11:20 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, on the AU campus. Her talk, open to the public, is entitled, "The Practice of Engineering in the 21st Century." Jones is director and chair of the Picker Engineering Program and the Rosemary Bradford Hewlett '40 Professor of Engineering at Smith College, the largest women's college and the only one to have an accredited engineering degree. Jones was professor of ceramic engineering while at AU. She has authored 81 publications and has given more than 100 national and international presentations. She has been named the American Carbon Society's Graffin Lecturer and serves on the Society's executive board. Jones is also actively involved in the European and Asian Carbon Society and is a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society. She has edited one book and has received nine teaching excellence awards including the State University of New York's (SUNY) Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence. In addition, Jones was recognized as a SUNY Research Scholar in 2004 for her work on high-temperature materials. Jones is committed to the advancement of women and underrepresented individuals in science, technology, and engineering. Her expertise is in the synthesis structure development and degradation of structural carbon and carbides used in aerospace and other severe environment applications. The work in her laboratory on high temperature oxidation and degradation has been extended to the measurement of environmental effluents produced via manufacturing processes. She has an interest in the manufacturing of glass and has received research funds from the National Science Foundation's Center for Hierarchical Manufacturing - MassNanonTech and has recently received State Department funding for engineering education support of Iraqi women engineers in an infrastructure revitalization program. The McMahon Award Lecture is presented annually by the Inamori School of Engineering in honor of John F. McMahon, who served as dean of the NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University from 1949-65. During his tenure he promoted relationships between industry and academe and advanced the education of ceramic engineers and artists. For the 68 years that McMahon was associated with the College of Ceramics as a student, researcher, professor, division head, dean, curator, and dean emeritus, he focused national attention on the College and heralded the importance of ceramic materials to society. In 1987, Alfred University created the John F. McMahon Chair in Ceramic Engineering, to be filled by a notable ceramic engineer or scientist who exemplifies McMahon's ideals and who focuses national attention on the importance of ceramic materials and the role of the NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University in that field. The late Dr. Richard M. Spriggs, professor of ceramic engineering emeritus, was appointed the first John F. McMahon Professor; Dr. James E. Shelby Jr., professor of glass science, currently holds the position.