

Cormack tapped for Italian research panel

7/20/12



Alastair N. Cormack, the Van Derck Frechette Professor of Ceramic Science in the Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering at Alfred University, has been invited to serve as a peer reviewer for the National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes, which will evaluate the research undertaken by Italian universities and other institutions between 2006-10.

Cormack will serve on one of 14 panels, charged with reviewing all research.

The founding dean of the Inamori School of Engineering, Cormack joined the AU faculty in 1985 and was promoted to the rank of professor in 1992.

He served as associate dean for graduate programs in the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science from 1991-92, and then served a five-year term as dean, from 1992-97. He served as director of graduate programs for the school from 1998 to 2003, when he was appointed as interim dean of the newly formed School of Engineering prior to accepting the full-time appointment in 2004. He returned to the faculty in 2009.

Considered to be among the leading researchers today in the field of computer modeling of materials, Cormack focuses on the atomic-scale physics and chemistry of materials, particularly ceramics and glass. He uses computers to model the way in which atoms are arranged in solids, and how that arrangement of atoms affects their properties. He is a frequent lecturer on the topic, invited to speak at conferences, colleges and universities around the world.

“The initial stages of bioglass dissolution: a Car-Parrinello molecular-dynamics study of the glass-water interface,” an article co-written by Antonio Tilocca and Cormack, was named one of the top 10 most-downloaded articles among those published in *the Proceedings of the Royal Society A* in 2011.

Cormack is a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society, the Society of Glass Technology, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Mineralogical Society (United Kingdom). He is also a chartered scientist and a chartered chemist in the United Kingdom.

After earning B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Cambridge, Cormack completed a M.Sc. degree in solid state chemistry and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.