

Alfred University researcher recognized among tops in state

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Dr. Steven Pilgrim, associate professor of materials science and engineering at Alfred University, is one of 38 researchers honored by State University of New York Chancellor Robert L. King as "New York's most important and innovative scientists for their research in medicine, public health, genetics, engineering, environmental studies, physics, computer science and other fields." Pilgrim and Dr. Ronald S. Gordon, dean of the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science, were among those attending the second "Chancellor's Recognition Dinner Honoring Research in Science, Engineering and Medicine" Thursday at State University Plaza in Albany. "These award-winning faculty members of SUNY are working to make scientific breakthroughs that will prevent or heal medical disorders and ailments, protect the environment, create new pharmaceuticals and help us understand the origins of the universe," said Chancellor King. "These scientists represent SUNY's world-class faculty that has garnered more than \$700 million for 9,000 research projects that are supporting 21,000 jobs in New York State." "I take great pleasure in Professor Pilgrim earning this award," said AU President Charles M. Edmondson. "He's a talented researcher, but his prowess in the laboratory is actually exceeded by his commitment to teaching and assisting student development." The 38 men and women honored represent 23 SUNY campuses, including university centers, four-year colleges, health science centers, specialized colleges, colleges of technology and statutory colleges. The School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science is one of two state units administered by Alfred University through a contract with the State University of New York. The other statutory units are located at Cornell University. Together, the honorees have generated nearly \$70 million in research funding. Pilgrim is founding co-director of the Laboratory for Electronic Ceramics at Alfred University, which is responsible for conducting 15 percent of on-campus research. He is active in science and engineering outreach and received a campus-wide Excellence in Teaching Award for his laboratory and non-major science courses. Pilgrim's primary research interests are electrostrictors and piezoelectrics for electromechanical actuators, "smart" materials and nonstructural composites.