

'73 alumnus chosen to deliver McMahon Lecture

9/15/05

Dr. Gary L. Messing, a 1973 graduate of the School of Engineering at Alfred University with a B.S. degree in ceramic engineering, will deliver the annual John F. McMahon Memorial Lecture at 11:15 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, on the AU campus. His topic will be "Manipulating Microstructures - A Path to Better Ceramics." Messing's research interests include nucleation and crystallization of chemical precursors, inorganic powder synthesis, sintering and grain growth, textured ceramics and nanocrystalline materials. Each year, the School of Engineering selects an outstanding ceramic engineer or scientist to deliver the lecture in memory of John F. McMahon, who was dean of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University from 1949 to 1965. Messing is Distinguished Professor of Ceramic Science and Engineering and head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA. Following his graduation from Alfred University, Messing earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in materials science and engineering from the University of Florida, which presented him with a Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2002. He was a research scientist at Battelle Columbus Laboratories in Columbus, OH, for two years prior to joining the Penn State faculty in 1980. Prior to becoming head of the Materials Science and Engineering department, he was director of the Penn State Materials Research Laboratory and founding director of the National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center on Particulate Matters. Author or co-author of more than 250 papers and editor or co-editor of 13 books, he has advised 44 B.S. degree students, 25 master's degree students, and 31 Ph.D. degree students during his tenure at Penn State. He has been co-organizer of the International Ceramic Processing Science Conference since 1986, and was co-editor of the Journal of the American Ceramic Society from 1993 to 1998 and is now editor-in-chief of Ceramics International and principal editor of Materials Letters. He also serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Sol-Gel Science and Technology and the Journal of Ceramic Processing Research. Recipient of the Wilson Research Award of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences at Penn State, Messing received the Richard M. Fulrath Pacific Award and gave the Robert M. Sosman Memorial Lecture of the American Ceramic Society. He was elected a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society in 1990, and served on the Board of Directors for two terms, from 1995 to 2003. He served as president of the American Ceramic Society in 2002-2003. In 1999, he was elected to the International Academy of Ceramics and was named to the European Academy of Sciences in 2002. In 2003, he was recognized as one of the most "Highly Cited Researchers" in materials, and was honored with the International Award of the European Ceramic Society for his international collaborations. Earlier this year, he received the Outstanding Educator Award of the Ceramic Education Council of the American Ceramic Society. He currently serves as chairman of the University Materials Council. Messing, who spent a semester as an undergraduate at the Friedrich Alexander University in Erlangen, Germany, has been a visiting professor at the University of Paris and a research fellow at Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia. He was appointed by AU President Charles M. Edmondson to chair a task force on engineering at Alfred University. Messing and his wife, the former Rebecca Slingerland, who is a native of Wellsville, NY, and a 1973 Alfred University alumna, now make their home in State College, PA. They are the parents of two children. The lecture is open to the public, free of charge. To register, contact Marlene Wightman, director of Continuing Education/Industrial Outreach, Alfred University at 607 871 2425.