

## Alfred University alumna named Pegasus Professor at the University of Central Florida

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Kathleen Richardson (Photo credit: University of Central Florida)

Dr. Kathleen Richardson &82, (BS, ceramic engineering) &92 Ph.D (ceramic engineering), professor of optics in the College of Optics and Photonics at the University of Central Florida where she runs the Glass Processing and Characterization Laboratory, was honored as a Pegasus Professor by the University of Central Florida.

Five recipients are chosen each year for the Pegasus Professor Award, the highest academic honor at UCF. It “rewards highly successful teaching, research and creative activity, as well as service. To be eligible, recipients must have worked at UCF for at least five years and have “conducted research or developed programs that have made national and international impact.” Each comes with a \$5,000 stipend and a \$5,000 research grant.

Richardson was honored for her work developing “special glass with specific optical properties and the ability to withstand extreme temperatures.” The glass can be used in devices such as night vision goggles or infrared cameras.

According to the UCF news release, “Richardson hadn&t seen much of the world when she arrived at college. It wasn&t until her first job provided her experiences, such as visiting China as part of a delegation on the creation and refinement of ceramics, that her worked expanded.

“&Science is a global business,& she says. “The companies I work with do business all over the world. I try to expose this perspective to my students as early as possible, so they can begin working on the soft skills, such as interacting with other disciplines and cultures.

“Richardson developed a special glass with specific optical properties and ability to withstand extreme temperatures that can be used in devices such as night vision goggles or infrared cameras. Recently, she and her students worked with an international company to create a specific type of glass for a commercial project, initially creating the glass in

her lab and then working with the company to show how to scale up production.

“&It&s about giving back to the industry, the profession and to your students. That little piece of their lives you share and the great things they go onto do is the joy in the service of our profession.&”

Richardson received her B.S. degree from Alfred University in 1982 and her Ph.D. degree in 1992. She has taught at the University of Central Florida and at Clemson University.

She is a past president of the American Ceramic Society and a past chair of the ACerS Glass and Optical Materials Division, as well as a past president of the National Institute of Ceramic Engineers. She is a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society, the Society of Glass Technology in Britain, SPIE and the Optical Society of America.

Richardson has been a member of the Alfred University Board of Trustees since 2006.