

Ostrower named Kruson Distinguished Professor

5/05/09

A lifetime of teaching excellence was recognized when Alfred University named Dr. Gary Ostrower, professor of history, as its newest Kruson Distinguished Professor. The presentation was made at Alfred University's annual Honors Convocation. "This award is presented in recognition of long and dedicated service, commitment to academic quality, and the strong sense of humanity shown to students," according to the citation. Ostrower "has been venerated by Alfred alumni and professionals beyond the Alfred community. He is widely respected by the campus community, which includes students who have judged him to be an outstanding teacher; faculty colleagues; and members of the administration." A 1961 Alfred University alumnus who earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees in history from the University of Rochester. He has taught in Alfred University's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences since 1969. He had previously taught at Vassar College and was a visiting assisting professor at the University of Pennsylvania in 1979-80. The University recognized his performance as a teacher, naming him the Margaret and Barbara Hagar Professor of the Humanities. He has also won numerous teaching awards. Ostrower was a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Aarhus in Denmark during the spring semester of 2005, one of 800 faculty members from the United States selected to participate in the prestigious program. A specialist in the history of international organizations, Ostrower has authored three books on the subject. His most recent book, *The United Nations and the United States*, was published by Twayne Publishers, a Simon and Shuster imprint. Previously, he had written two other books, both about the League of Nations, as well as numerous articles and book reviews in the field of international organization. Ostrower served as president of the Society for the Study of Internationalism from 1988 to 1994. The organization, founded by internationalist historian Warren F. Kuehl, promoted and publicized academic study in the field of international cooperation. He is also the ombudsman at Alfred University and St. Bonaventure University. Active in the Alfred community, Ostrower served on the Alfred Village Board for nearly 25 years, first as a trustee and then as mayor for six years, from 1999 to 2005. He continues to serve as a member of the Allegany County Youth Board, a post he has held since 1984. Ostrower is married to Judith Samber, an Alfred University alumna, former Allegany County Court Judge and now a judicial referee for the State of New York. They live in Alfred and are the parents of two grown children.