

Alfred University emeriti professors Pye, Varshneya recognized during International Congress on Glass
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L. David Pye, emeritus professor of glass science, at the 25th International Congress on Glass.

BOSTON, MA – The American Ceramic Society (ACerS) hosted the 25th International Congress on Glass June 9-14 in Boston, MA, and two Alfred University emeriti professors of glass science – L. David Pye and Arun Varshneya – were honored.

ACerS this spring announced the creation of the L. David Pye Lifetime Achievement Award. During the International Congress on Glass, ACerS recognized the inaugural awardees: John Douglas Mackenzie and Charles R. Kurkjian. A festshrift organized by two former students was held to honor Varshneya for his achievements in glass science and engineering.

In announcing the L. David Pye Lifetime Achievement Award, ACerS Glass & Optical Materials Division said it would be given annually to deserving individual(s) “in recognition of lifetime dedication, vision, and accomplishments in advancing the field of glass science and engineering.” Kurkjian is emeritus research professor at Rutgers University, Department of Materials Science and Engineering. Mackenzie is emeritus professor in the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

A 1959 graduate of the School of Engineering at Alfred University, Pye began his career as a glass researcher at Bausch and Lomb in Rochester. He returned to Alfred University to earn a Ph.D. in ceramic science in 1968, and joined the faculty the same year. A member of the Alfred University faculty for 34 years, he served as dean of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University for a five-year term, 1995-2000, and led the College’s centennial celebration.

Pye, a former president of ACerS (2007-08), is a distinguished life member of ACerS; an honorary member of the German Society of Glass Technology; an honorary fellow of the British Society of Glass Technology; and a recipient

of the International Congress on Glass President's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a founding member of the board of trustees of the Ceramic and Glass Industry Foundation, and founding editor of the International Journal of Applied Glass Science.

Varshneya was honored by his peers for a lifetime of achievements in glass research, education, and entrepreneurship. The festschrift in Varshneya's honor was organized by two of his former Alfred University students: Dr. Vijay Jain '88 MS, PhD glass science, now chief technology officer at Savannah River Remediation, and Dr. John Mauro '01 BS, '06 PhD glass science, now professor of materials science at engineering at Penn State.

As part of the festschrift, International Congress on Glass conducted a symposium in Varshneya's honor, with more than 50 papers presented, and publish a book covering Varshneya's lifetime significant scholarly works and anecdotes from friends and professional colleagues about the work he inspired others to do.

"Our teacher has dedicated almost six decades of his life to the advancement of glass science, engineering and technology," Jain and Mauro said when announcing the recognition.

A festschrift is a book honoring a respected person, especially an academic, and presented during their lifetime. It generally takes the form of an edited volume, containing contributions from the honoree's colleagues, former pupils, and friends. Varshneya's contributions to the field "have had a profound impact on many facets of glass science and technology, and more importantly, on the people throughout the glass community," Jain and Mauro commented.

Varshneya joined the faculty in what is now the Inamori School of Engineering at Alfred University in 1982 after previously working at Ford Scientific Laboratories in Dearborn, MI, and GE Lighting Business Group, Cleveland, OH. He joined a glass faculty at Alfred University that included five full-time professors, all of whom earned international acclaim. During his 29-year career as an active member of the faculty, prior to his retirement in 2011 and his promotion to emeritus status, Varshneya advised baccalaureate, master's and doctoral theses in a wide variety of glass engineering science areas. His work generated approximately 160 publications and 12 patents.

His lifetime achievements have earned him several awards. He was named an honorary fellow of the Society of Glass Technology in 2018 and a Distinguished Life Member of ACerS in 2014. He received the President's Award for lifetime achievement from the International Congress on Glass in 2007.