

Wimberley, TX resident to receive alumni award during Reunion Weekend

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Timothy E. DeJong, a member of the Alfred University class of 1982, is the recipient of the 2009 AU Alumni Award for Distinguished Achievement. The honor is given to alumni whose achievements in their profession, career, or avocational pursuits or service to society bring honor and distinction to Alfred University. Recipients must show loyalty and commitment to the University. The award will be presented during Alfred University's annual Reunion Weekend, June 12-14. DeJong studied ceramics, sculpture, and glass while a student at Alfred University. He transferred in his senior year to Temple University's Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, where he earned a bachelor of fine arts degree. While on vacation in Texas in 1991, DeJong fell in love with the Texas Hill Country. One year later, he opened Wimberley (TX) Glassworks, Inc. In 2006, the growing company was moved to a new, larger location. Though he did not graduate from Alfred University, DeJong considers his time at Alfred University as a pivotal moment in his life. He describes Alfred as "weird and wonderful," and has employed a number of AU students over the years. He says he never hesitates to hire an AU grad who applies for work. DeJong currently employs three full-time glass blowers and provides visitors to the studio with glassblowing demonstrations. A well-known area tourist attraction, DeJong's studio has been heralded as "a must see," a "Hill Country treasure" and "Wimberly's most famous attraction." DeJong is a resident of Wimberley. He was nominated for the Alfred University award by Gwen Staudinger, a fellow '82 alumna. Founded in 1836, Alfred University became the first coeducational institution in New York State and the second in the nation. About 2,000 full-time undergraduate and 400 graduate students work and live in 52 buildings on a scenic 232-acre hillside campus adjoining the village of Alfred. The nonsectarian University is comprised of the privately endowed AACSB-accredited (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) College of Business and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as well as the NYS College of Ceramics (Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering and the School of Art and Design). AU's art school is ranked number one in the nation for ceramic art, and second in the nation for glass art. The University awards bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.