

## Alfred University to install 13th president

12/01/00

Dr. Charles M. Edmondson will be formally installed as Alfred University's 13th president in a ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, in Harder Hall on the Alfred University campus. A reception from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Miller Performing Arts Center will follow. Dr. Gene M. Bernstein, chairman of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, will administer the oath of office to Edmondson and bestow upon him the official seal of the Alfred University presidency. Other speakers will be Seth Mulligan, Student Senate president, and Dr. Thomas McDowell, Faculty Senate president. "As a candidate for the presidency of Alfred, I saw the possibility of Alfred's achieving national stature as an institution that offered a unique combination of high-level research and scholarship, with close attention to the personal development of students," said Edmondson. "My five months as president have reaffirmed this conviction. Although higher education faces a challenging environment, Alfred University has an exciting future and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to shape that future," he said. For Bernstein, the installation of Edmondson as Alfred University's new president is the culmination of a process that began more than a year ago, when the search committee, which Bernstein chaired, interviewed Edmondson - and 12 other candidates - for the first time. What Bernstein and others have seen in the months since Edmondson took office have affirmed the committee's recommendation, and the Board of Trustees' decision, to appoint Edmondson to the presidency, effective July 1. "When President Edward G. Coll, Jr., announced to the Board of Trustees that he planned to retire in June of 2000, we knew we would be facing the most important task of trusteeship - picking a new leader for the institution," said Bernstein. "The search committee met many times to come up with a job description that would capture the qualities we believed the University needed. After sorting through some 70 applicants for the presidency we were prepared to interview a dozen by each stating what we were looking for. My description was 'The WOW Factor,' " Bernstein said. "It's been six months since Charley assumed the presidency and we have worked quite closely together during that time. All I can say so far is 'WOW!'" Bernstein said. Trustee Robert McComsey of New York, a member of the search committee and vice chairman of the board, agrees with Bernstein. Hiring of Edmondson "is another home run for Alfred!" Peggy Broderick, who represented the Support Staff Council on the search committee says campus has reacted well to the search committee's choice. "When President Edmondson's name has been mentioned, the comment I hear is 'He is an excellent choice for President - the search committee did an awesome job!'" Trustee Ruth Scott of Rochester is pleased with the decision. "One of the most exciting things I see happening at Alfred since Charley Edmondson's arrival is the engagement of the deans in charting the future of the college and presenting their ideas before the board of trustees." As a member of the search committee, I believe we made the best choice of the candidates. Charley has the potential to be a great president as we move into the next century. His 'outside the community' perspective is a broad one and he seems to capture the imagination of the alumni who have attended the receptions which I too have attended. He also values what our previous president has done and intends to build on the legacy of Alfred University." Edmondson came to Alfred University after serving as vice president for Academic Affairs and provost at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, for the past seven years. He had served Rollins College in various capacities over the past 30 years. Administrative positions included vice president for Academic Affairs and provost (1993-2000); associate provost (1992-93); dean of the Hamilton Holt School (evening programs for adult students, 1991-93); and director of College Planning (1988-90). He joined the faculty at Rollins College in 1970 as an assistant professor of History, and was made a full professor in 1981. His research has focused on Soviet history. Edmondson was a visiting professor at Wuhan University, Wuchang, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, in 1983. He was named a Phi Beta Delta International Scholar in 1992, and received a Pew Faculty Fellowship in International Relations from the Pew Memorial Trust and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, 1991-92, and an Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship, 1991-92. In 1989 and 1990, he was director of a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for School Teachers, and participated in the Fulbright Seminars Abroad Program in its Seminar on Korean Culture and History in Seoul, Korea, in 1987. He has also received numerous awards for distinguished teaching. Edmondson earned a B.A. degree, magna cum laude, and an M.A. degree in history both from the University of Mississippi. He received a Ph.D. degree in history from Florida State University, and has continued his education at the Newberry Library Institute for Family and Community History and at the Harvard Institute for Educational Management. Edmondson and his wife, Dr. Laura Greyson, who is now a professor of Political Science at Alfred University, are the parents of an 11-year-old daughter, Erica. Alfred University was founded in 1836, and is the oldest

co-educational institution in New York state and one of the oldest in the country. It offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees through its colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering and Professional Studies, as well as through the School of Art and Design and the School of Ceramic Engineering and Material Science, which are partnership schools funded in part by the State University of New York.