

Ceramic engineering student wins McMahon Achievement Award

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ALFRED Edward V. Bongio, a senior ceramic engineering major at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, spent eight months this year performing a host of duties at Saint-Gobain Industrial Ceramics, a high-volume processing plant in Worcester, MA. During his co-op assignment at Saint-Gobain, Bongio, a Syracuse resident and graduate of Westhill High School, worked as a backup mixer, laboratory manager, was part of a design team and trained personnel on testing equipment. For his work, Bongio was honored as this year's recipient of the McMahon Achievement Award, given annually to ceramic engineering and materials science students in recognition of their performance on co-op assignment. Dr. James Shelby, the John F. McMahon Professor of Ceramic Engineering, presented the McMahon Achievement Award to Bongio prior to the Oct. 26 John F. McMahon Memorial Lecture. He received a \$500 award from the Ceramic Association of New York State (CANY). Bongio's co-op assignment ran from Jan. 18 to Aug. 11. Saint-Gobain Industrial Ceramics which is now called Saint-Gobain Industrial Plastics and Ceramics specializes in the manufacture of high performance kiln furniture. His duties as laboratory manager included quality control testing, operation, instruction and maintenance of existing lab equipment and purchasing and installation of new equipment. He also designed and oversaw the construction of a new "mud lab" a quality control laboratory where new batches of materials used in ceramic production are tested and trained personnel in every area of manufacturing. Bongio was responsible for training personnel on a variety of equipment and had the opportunity to work closely with other engineers, research scientists and manufacturing personnel. "I know that Alfred's hands-on laboratory experience prepared me for the quality control experiments that I was required to run. Also, the 'write-up' requirements for the laboratories (at Alfred) and classes prepared me for technical reports while on co-op," Bongio said. "I feel I have an advantage over other ceramic engineers because I am from such a strong program at Alfred," he continued. "It is demanding, but it definitely prepares you for the real world." Bongio, the son of Vincent and Nadine Bongio of Syracuse, is scheduled to graduate from Alfred in December 2001 with a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering. He said he would like to return to AU to pursue a master's degree in ceramic engineering.