

## **'One of AU's Own' to Speak at May 15 Commencement**

5/06/99

Alfred, NY – One of Alfred University's own – Professor Emeritus Robert C. Turner – will be the speaker at Alfred University's commencement exercises at 10 am. May 15 in McLane Center. On that day, Alfred University will confer about 325 bachelor's degrees, 90 master's degrees and 15 doctoral degrees, bringing to 585 the total number of degrees the University will award this academic year. "We are truly honored that 'one of our own' has accepted our invitation to deliver this year's address," said AU President Edward G. Coll, Jr. "Each year, when we choose a commencement speaker, we try to find someone who has real stature in his or her field, one who will inspire our graduates and their families," Coll said. "Bob Turner, an internationally acclaimed artist as well as a beloved teacher, is just such a person." A graduate of Swarthmore College, Turner received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Alfred University in 1949. He taught at Black Mountain College and returned to Alfred in 1958 as a professor of ceramic art, a position held for 21 years until his retirement in 1979. A Fellow of the American Crafts Council, Turner received their Gold Medal in 1993. He is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics, and an honorary member and past president of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. Highly acclaimed as an artist, Turner received several awards in national and international competitions. His work is held in numerous private collections and museums of fine art. Swarthmore College conferred an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree on Turner in recognition of his stature as an artist. As a teacher, Turner also excelled, receiving the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1974.