

Pye to deliver Samuel R. Scholes Sr. lecture

3/30/05

Dr. L. David Pye, dean and professor of Glass Science, emeritus at Alfred University, will deliver the 2005 Samuel R. Scholes Sr. Award Lecture at 11:20 a.m. Thursday, April 7, in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, on the Alfred University campus. His topic is "History of Glass Science at Alfred University." The annual Samuel R. Scholes Award Lecture is presented each year to a distinguished glass scientist or engineer for his or her contributions to the field. The award is named in honor of Dr. Samuel R. Scholes, Sr., who founded the glass science programs at Alfred University in 1932. Pye, who has been actively engaged in the field of glass science and engineering as a teacher, scholar and researcher for nearly five decades, calls glass "arguably the most versatile of all materials because of its extraordinary ranges of composition, methods of fabrication, properties and applications." While glass was discovered thousands of years ago, Pye notes it has only been within the last century that engineers and scientists have begun to understand and manipulate its atomic structure and properties, leading to development of new applications for this material. Many of those advances began in the laboratories at Alfred University, thanks to the glass science and engineering program started nearly 75 years ago by Scholes, and continued in industry, academe, and government by AU graduates. "As we approach the 75th anniversary in 2007 of the establishment of the glass science programs at Alfred University, it is appropriate that we stop and take a look back and chronicle some of the major milestones in their development," Pye says, explaining his choice of topic for the lecture. He has dedicated his lecture to "fellow faculty and staff of the College; students, alumni, and friends of the College throughout the world." After receiving his B.S. degree in ceramic engineering in 1959, Pye went on to earn both his master's and Ph.D. degree, all from AU. His career included employment as a research engineer at PPG Industries and Bausch and Lomb Inc, and service as an artillery officer in the US Army. As a member of the AU faculty he co-founded the NSF Industry-University Center for Glass Research, the Paul Vickers Gardner Center for Glass, and several continuing international conferences including the University Series on Glass Science; Advances in the Fusion and Processing of Glass; Glass in Planetary and Geological Phenomena; Borate Glasses; and Glass in Photonics. He has convened conferences at Washington, DC, the Cambridge University, UK, the United Nations University - Japan, and most recently, Frankfurt, Germany. His multi-million dollar research program was funded by the National Science Foundation, several national laboratories, the New York State Legislature, and numerous industrial corporations. This program resulted in the completion of over 40 doctoral and master theses, publication of over 70 articles in the technical literature, and co-editing of numerous conference proceedings. During his tenure as dean of the NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University, sponsored research rose to then record levels; several new academic programs were initiated including the BS, MS and PhD in Materials Science; the MFA in Electronic Arts; the BS in Biomedical Materials Engineering Science; and the National Casting Center for Glass and Steel. He also established several scholarship funds including the Kazuo Inamori International Scholarship Fund, and the William E. Crandall Scholarship Fund. Additionally, the Frechette Chair in Ceramic Science was established; the Frechette International Friendship Park dedicated; the Hall of Glass Science and Engineering constructed; and multi-million dollar funding was secured for the construction of the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramics. He also presided over the 100th anniversary celebration of the College in 2000. He has served as president of the International Commission on Glass, trustee of the American Ceramic Society, member of several international advisory groups, and was recently appointed chair of an International Globalization Task Force by the American Ceramic Society. Among the awards he has received are: Excellence in Teaching from the American Society for Engineering Education; honorary membership in the German Society of Glass Technology; honorary fellowship in the British Society of Glass Technology; the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creativity; the Dominick Labino Lecture Award from the Glass Art Society; and the Presidential Order of Merit from Alfred University. His biography is found in several standard references including Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, and Who's Who in Engineering.