

Advanced Ceramic Technology Center assists in design of World Trade Center memorial

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Technical assistance provided by the Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology (CACT) at Alfred University led to an improved design for the eternal flame that will be part of the permanent memorial to victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center. Through the auspices of the CACT, Dr. Licio Pennisi, assistant director, performed a series of analyses to advise the New York City Department of Design and Construction which types of stone and other materials would be best suited for the eternal flame at the World Trade Center memorial. "The time you generously contributed to discuss various options for stone and alternate materials for the WTC memorial with the principal project designer, as well the tests you performed on stone samples proposed for the memorial were significantly instrumental in helping the Department of Design and Construction focus on realistic options for it, and helped heighten our confidence in the direction we ultimately pursued," wrote Anne Papageorge, a licensed architect and first deputy commissioner for the department. "The Department of Design and Construction wanted to know what types of stone or other materials would both look nice and withstand the heat from the eternal flame," explained Pennisi, who performed several thermal analyses on the various materials proposed for use in the memorial.