

## **Cormack named director of graduate programs**

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Dr. Alastair N. Cormack, the Van Derck Frechette Professor of Ceramic Science, has been named director of the Graduate School at Alfred University. Cormack, a former dean of the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science, has been serving as director of that school's graduate programs. In his new capacity, he will be in charge of graduate programs for the entire University. "This new position highlights the importance of graduate programs across the University," said Dr. David Szczerbacki, AU provost, who made named Cormack to the newly created post. "As director, Dr. Cormack will be an advocate for these programs as we allocate resources, launch new programs and develop academic policy. Most significantly, Dr. Cormack will be an important voice in coordinating academic research." His experience with graduate education in the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science and his accomplishments in both research and academic administration will be a tremendous asset for our graduate programs across the University," Szczerbacki said. Cormack will chair the AU Graduate Council and will work with deans and faculty to develop new graduate degree programs. In promoting research as an integral part of graduate education, Cormack will work with the provost's office in coordinating academic research. Among his responsibilities will be serving on the Deans' Council, the Academic Affairs Committee and the Sponsored Research Coordinating Committee. Alfred University offers master's degree programs in business administration, counseling, elementary education, literacy, secondary education, community services administration, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, school psychology, ceramic engineering, glass science, materials science and engineering, biomedical materials engineering science, ceramic art, electronic integrated arts, glass arts and sculpture, as well as Ph.D. degrees in ceramics and glass science, and a Psy.D. degree in school psychology. Cormack, who joined the AU faculty in 1985 and was promoted to the rank of professor in 1992, served as associate dean for graduate programs in the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science from 1991-92, and then served a five-year term as dean, from 1992-97. He has served as director of graduate programs for the school since 1998. Considered to be among the leading researchers today in the field of computer modeling of materials, Cormack focuses on the atomic-scale physics and chemistry of materials, particularly ceramics and glass. He uses computers to model the way in which atoms are arranged in solids, and how that arrangement of atoms affects their properties. Through modeling, Cormack and other researchers are able to design materials that have desired properties to meet a variety of applications. He is a frequent lecturer on the topic, invited to speak at conferences, colleges and universities around the world. Cormack is a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society, the Society of Glass Technology, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Mineralogical Society (United Kingdom). He received his B.A. degree from the University of Cambridge (Pembroke College), a Master of Science degree in solid state chemistry from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the same institution.