

Two AU employees receive SUNY Chancellor's Awards

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Two recipients of State University of New York Chancellor's Awards will be honored for exemplary service in their fields during Alfred University's annual Honors Convocation this spring. Elizabeth Gulacsy, a librarian at Scholes Library of Ceramics, was honored for Excellence in Librarianship, and Margaret Rasmussen, assistant director of the National Science Foundation's Industry-University Center for Glass Research, received the award for Excellence in Professional Service. Gulacsy joined the staff of the Scholes Library in 1983 as a part-time reference librarian and became a full-time librarian and college archivist in 1990. In 1994, she was appointed to a tenure-track position as assistant librarian for art reference and college archivist. To enhance her ability to fulfill her responsibilities, Gulacsy undertook course work in art history, attended workshops in archival management and preservation and received two faculty development grants. In the nomination of Gulacsy for the Excellence in Librarianship award, it was noted she is an "outstanding reference librarian, with a comprehensive knowledge of the Scholes collections and of the various print or electronic bibliographic tools needed to navigate an increasingly complex and daunting information landscape." She has consistently been cited by students for her efforts to assist them in their research. One cited Gulacsy as "one of the library's most important resources." As art librarian, Gulacsy has been instrumental in building the library's collection, even in face of budgetary restraints. As archivist for the College of Ceramics, the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, and the National Science Foundation's Industry-University Center for Glass Research, Gulacsy has acquired, organized and indexed quantities of material, developing databases that enable library patrons to find materials and to track their loan status if the materials are borrowed from the archives. In addition to her other responsibilities, Gulacsy assumed the job of technical services librarian. She oversees the work of a serials assistant and a cataloging technical specialist in entering serials data into an on-line database, rather than an in-house database, widening access to the materials. Active on several committees on campus, Gulacsy is also an active member of the State University of New York Librarians Association; president of the Art Libraries Society of Western New York; active in the Art Libraries Society of America; affiliated with the South Central Regional Library Council and chair of its education and training committee; and secretary of the design division of the American Ceramic Society. Gulacsy brought to her AU position an international background that has proved valuable in dealing with students from diverse cultures. Born in Hungary, she grew up in Venezuela and moved to the U.S., becoming a citizen in the late 1970s. She is fluent in Hungarian, Spanish, German, and English. A graduate of George Peabody College in Nashville, TN., Gulacsy is certified to teach Spanish, English and mathematics. While working on her master's degree in library science from George Peabody College, she gained experience in a specialized library, the Country Music Foundation Library and Media Center in Nashville. Rasmussen came to Alfred University in 1985 as director of public relations after serving in a similar role at Randolph Macon Women's College. She became a technical writer and editor for the College of Ceramics in 1987, and in 1992 was named assistant director of the Center for Glass Research. In 1996 she added to her duties that of executive director of the Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center. She is founding editor of *The GlassResearcher*, the newsletter of the Center for Glass Research, and *Intarsia*, a newsletter for the Gardner Glass Center. In nominating her for the Chancellor's Award, it was noted she "has made monumental contributions to the projection of the College of Ceramics as a world-renowned center for excellence in education. In doing so, she has contributed immeasurably to the fulfillment of the College's educational mission: to teach, to learn and to search. Through her dedicated and creative service, she is an inspiring example to all that is best in professional service at the University level." The Center for Glass Research at Alfred, with 30 industrial members, is among the largest of the industry-university centers sponsored by the National Science Foundation, and has gained an international reputation in the glass science community, due, in part, to *The GlassResearcher*, which Rasmussen founded and continues to edit. She is also involved in organizing international conferences for the glass center, and prepares promotional materials for the center, instrumental in recruiting and retaining members. Alex Schwarzkopf, program coordinator for NSF, cited Rasmussen as "an important component in the success of the (center) she has been an important conduit between the center, its partner universities, its industry members, as well as the whole glass community." The Paul Vickers Gardner Center for Glass History, was founded in 1994 with a major gift from Gardner, who also donated his glass collection to the University. As director, Rasmussen has "almost single-handedly established external and internal advisory committees, raised additional operating funds, and engaged the services of docents, students and friends to help grow the Center." She has also represented the Center at major symposia on the

art and science of glass, both in the U.S. and abroad. During her tenure at Alfred, Rasmussen, a graduate of the University of South Carolina, has earned three master's degrees: an MS in education from Alfred University; an MLS from the University of Buffalo; and an MA in American history from the University of Rochester. Each has enhanced her growth as a scholar, author and editor. Each was also earned without significant release time from her College responsibilities. Through a contract with SUNY, Alfred University administers two state-supported units, the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science and the School of Art and Design, both with international reputations for excellence in their fields.#####