

## Two Alfred University students honored at Scholes Lecture

4/10/19



ALFRED, NY – Two engineering students at Alfred University were honored for academic excellence prior to the Samuel R. Scholes Lecture on Thursday, April 4.

The Scholes Scholar Award is presented each year at the Scholes Lecture to the engineering student who had the highest grade point average after completion of his or her first year at Alfred University. There was a tie for this year's award, as sophomores Anthony Tsekrekas and Trisha Whaley each posted the highest GPA following the completion of the 2018-19 academic year.

Tsekrekas is a glass science engineering major (physics, mathematics minor) from Perry, NH; Whaley is a materials science and engineering major (chemistry, mathematics minor) from Chittenango, NY.

Edgar Zanotto, professor of materials science and engineering and director of the Center for Research, Technology, and Education in Vitreous Materials, Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil, delivered last week's Scholes Lecture.

In his talk, titled "Glass Myths and Marvels," Zanotto defined the properties of glass and discussed three "urban legends" relative to the material: that glass windows in medieval cathedrals can be thicker at the bottom because glass in its solid form reverts back to liquid over time, with gravity causing window glass to migrate downward, creating greater thickness at the bottom; instances of images of the Holy Mother appearing in glass (two examples Zanotto

cited were at a church in Clearwater, FL, and in a discarded window found in Ferraz de Vasconcelos, Brazil); and the ability to someone to sing at a pitch and level that could shatter a wine glass, as was depicted in a 1972 commercial for Memorex audio cassettes.

Zanotto said the first two legends have been debunked. As for the third, famed jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald did use her voice to break a wine glass in the Memorex commercial; however it was done with the aid of amplification. Zanotto showed footage from the popular cable television program, "Mythbusters," in which rock singer Jaime Vendera was able, after several attempts, to shatter a wine glass as he sang, without aid of amplification.

The Scholes Lecture Series was established in 1982 by alumni of Alfred University to honor the late Samuel R. Scholes, who in 1932 established the first glass science program in the United States at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. He served as dean, associate dean, head of the Department of Glass Technology, and professor of glass science.

*In photos above, Scholes Scholars Trisha Whaley (top photo) and Anthony Tsekrekas (bottom photo) receive their award from Gabrielle Gaustad, Inamori School of Engineering dean.*