

Ceramic art listed number one in U.S. News rankings

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The 2013 edition of U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Graduate Schools" ranks the master of fine arts (MFA) ceramics program at Alfred University tops in the nation. All of Alfred University's MFA programs combined are ranked 11th in the nation, making them the highest-ranked art programs among all schools in New York State. "We are grateful that our Ceramics Art programs have again been recognized as the best in American higher education. Alfred's elite status in this area is sometimes assumed to be a kind of inherited legacy; but legacies do not survive without the continuing hard work and creativity of our faculty, staff, and students. We should all take a moment to salute their sustained commitment to excellence and to appreciate its important contribution to the University's overall quality and character," said AU President Charles M. Edmondson. "It is very gratifying to have the strength of our MFA programs recognized by the U.S. News and World Report rankings," said Leslie Bellavance, dean of the School of Art and Design. "The ranking of the Ceramic Art MFA as number one affirms and acknowledges the accomplishments of both our faculty and students in the program. We are very pleased to have this indication that our peers value the distinct and ambitious program that has been developed at Alfred University." U.S. News reports the specialty fine arts rankings are based solely on ratings by educators at 230 peer schools. Art school deans and other top art school academics, two per school, were asked to nominate up to 10 programs noted for their excellence. Respondents were asked to rate the academic quality of the program. Those receiving the most nominations were listed. The School of Art and Design, College of Ceramics at Alfred University, offers undergraduate concentrations in painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, graphic design, video and sonic arts, ceramics, glass and sculpture as well as art history. MFA programs include electronic arts, ceramic art and sculpture, which encompasses glass.