

## **Roberts wins national librarian's award**

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Gary Roberts, information systems librarian at Alfred University's Herrick Library, is this year's recipient of the 21st Century New Librarian Award, presented by the Syracuse University School of Information Studies. Roberts, who joined the staff of Herrick Library in 1999, shortly after graduating from the University of Buffalo Library School, is only the second recipient of the award. He was selected from a field of nominees who represent institutions from across the country and Canada. He will be honored at an awards ceremony Oct. 8, 2004, in Syracuse. "This is an honor not only for Gary, but also for Alfred University," said Lana Meissner, University librarian and associate vice president for information services. "This award recognizes that Gary, and through him, Alfred University, is an emerging leader in this profession which has changed so dramatically with the introduction of new technologies." The 21st Century Librarian Award, which was first awarded in 1999, and the 21st Century New Librarian Award, which was started last year, "recognize librarians who have been leaders in the evolution of the profession in the new environment" in which librarians today must work. The profession is "evolving, redefining itself to meet the challenges" created by the introduction of technology to information management. Meissner noted that Roberts "has helped to pioneer a number of library innovations, such as the use of library database-driven websites and the comprehensive Journal Locator. His research has focused on how smaller libraries can fully utilize technology through collaboration, publication and resource sharing. More recently, Gary has researched the benefits of combining online information literacy tutorials with course management systems to support comprehensive information literacy programs." The winners of the award are those who demonstrate achievement in redefinition of information publication and communication, in scholarly communities and other arenas; develop and implement "intellectual technologies," such as thesauri, ontologies, search engines and natural language processing; facilitate the free flow of information, including issues of access, censorship, privacy, confidentiality and intellectual property; or creatively implement technology for service provision, including issues of digital libraries and digital preservation. Additional criteria include "an ethic of service, including focus on the needs and concerns of information users; collaboration and partnership; and an impact on the communities they serve."