

## **Acton named J. Henry Smith Professor**

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Dr. Daniel Acton, Alfred University professor of accountancy and director of the accounting program, has been appointed the J. Henry Smith Research Professor by Dean of the School of Business Dr. David G. Martin. The professorship is for a two-year term. The J. Henry Smith Endowed Professorship honors the AU life trustee whose business career and personal interests transcended the traditional parameters usually associated with corporate leadership. It was the first fully funded endowed professorship at the University. "I am confident that Professor Acton's tenure as the J. Henry Smith Professor will be productive, contributing to both his professional development and the strategic interests of the College," said Martin. Acton has been a faculty member at Alfred University since 1986. He teaches financial accounting, managerial accounting, intermediate accounting II, and cost accounting. In addition to his classroom duties, he was responsible for the design, implementation, and success of the current MBA program in the College of Business as well as for the continued excellence of our undergraduate accounting program, said Dean Martin. He noted that Acton's research interests and activities during the next two years will be in two areas, forecasting startup company financial statements and ethics education in accounting. The first is an outgrowth of presentations he has made in the College's business policy course. The objective of this line of research is to develop a model suitable for use by startup companies to forecast their first-year financial statements. The nature of the research involves numerous iterations using standard industry ratios from Compustat. The second area of research is an extension of work Acton has done on the extent and nature of ethics education in accounting curricula. Initial work that involved colleges within New York State was presented at a regional conference and published in an accounting journal. Acton intends to expand this to a national survey of college accounting programs. Acton earned a Ph.D. in accounting from Kent State University, Kent, Ohio; an MBA from Miami University; and a BA from Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio. He is a Certified Public Accountant. Prior to joining Alfred University, he held professional positions with Ronder Legg Sperry and Co. PC and Struthers-Wells Corp.