

Alfred University seminar focuses on current issues in business

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ALFRED - A new seminar offered at Alfred University will provide a fresh outlook on the challenges faced by business professionals. Several successful entrepreneurs, many of them Alfred University alumni, will share their experiences during the Seminar in Current Business Issues. The course will be offered throughout the spring semester and is aimed at providing a forum for topics business practitioners consider important. Dr. John C. Howard, professor of business, said the program is valuable because it exposes students to issues that have an impact on today's business world. "Typically, course textbooks are written about events that occurred some years ago and issues that have already been studied and resolved," said Howard, who supervised development of the seminar. "Our goal in designing this seminar is to present students with the opportunity to understand first-hand what's happening in "the trenches" and learn about emerging business phenomena that haven't made it into their texts at least, not yet." Enrollment in the seminar is more than 70 students, with the majority of them freshmen and sophomores. In addition to discussing important business-related issues, presenters will talk about the philosophies and strategies they followed to achieve success. The course introduction will be presented Wednesday, Jan. 22, with regular weekly speakers to follow. Each seminar session, held at 7:30 p.m. in Room 302 of the Olin Building, is open to the public. Following is a schedule of speakers: Wednesday, Jan. 29: Chris Collins, chairman and treasurer, Block Industries LLC, Henrietta, NY. Wednesday, Feb. 5: Robert Daggett (AU '81), owner, Smethport Specialty Co., Smethport, PA. Wednesday, Feb. 12: Truett Sweeting (AU '72) operations manager, Vesuvius Hi-Tech Ceramics, Alfred, NY. Wednesday, Feb. 19: Jane Karlsten, owner and CEO, Silk Road Transport Inc., Arkport, NY. Wednesday, Feb. 26: Thomas Judson, owner and CEO, Pike Construction Co., Rochester, NY. Wednesday, March 19: Joseph Giffune (AU '64), vice president of engineering, Jernberg Industries, Inc., Chicago, IL. Wednesday, March 26: Dr. John Edmond (AU '83), owner and vice president for research, Cree Research Inc., Durham, NC. Thursday, April 3: Panel discussion with Andrew Ippolito (AU '53), Discovery Oil Ltd, Malibu, CA; Antone Carvalho (AU '53), retired vice president, Chesebrough Pond's, USA; Phil Johnson (AU '69), partner, Levene, Goulding & Thompson, Vestal, NY. Friday, April 11: Jon K. Tabor (AU '55), president and chairman of the board, Allied Minerals, Columbus, OH. Monday, April 14: Doris Christopher, owner and CEO, Pampered Chef, Addison, IL. Christopher will also be delivering the 4th Annual Cutco Foundation Lecture on Entrepreneurial Leadership, scheduled for 4 p.m. April 14 in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. Wednesday, April 23: Joseph Loboizzo, owner, JML Optical, Rochester, NY. Wednesday, April 30: John Henderson (AU '75), CEO, High Falls Brewing Co., Rochester, NY..