

## **Alumnus' support allows University to create, upgrade critical facilities**

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Support from Frederick W. Gibbs, a 1954 graduate of Alfred University and a long-time member of its Board of Trustees will allow the University to either create or upgrade several critical facilities on campus. "Mr. Gibbs has been generous with his support for Alfred University over the years, and we appreciate his willingness to assist us with these high-priority projects to enhance our campus," said President Charles M. Edmondson. Gibbs, an attorney who now lives in New Jersey, sees his contributions as insurance that the Alfred University that five generations of Gibbs have known will continue for many years to serve students. "We bought into Alfred University very strongly," he said of himself, his grandfather, father, and two cousins - all Western New Yorkers. Proceeds from a charitable remainder trust created by Gibbs will fund three projects: - Creation of the Gibbs Collaborative Research Commons at Scholes Library of Ceramics. Today's students are drawn to flexible learning spaces that allow them to work as teams. These spaces are a bridge to and from the classroom, helping students move to a higher learning level through interaction with librarians, tutors, and technology specialists, but most of all through collaboration with peers. "Libraries are ideal settings for collaborative work," said Carla Johnson, dean of Libraries and director of Scholes Library. "We can provide expert assistance with library resources and technology in comfortable, inviting and safe surroundings." The staff at Scholes Library created a temporary study commons this year and students took ownership of the area, adapting it to accommodate their study habits and technology needs. With the proceeds from the Gibbs' trust, the Research Commons will become permanent with new furniture, hardware and software, and spaces for students to display their work. - Refurbishing of Science Center spaces. The Science Center, which houses the divisions of Biology, Environmental Studies, Psychology and School Psychology, as well as the University's data center, is in need of some renovation, which would be undertaken with proceeds from the Gibbs' trust. Plans call for sprucing up three classrooms and two lecture halls with new carpeting and furnishings, as well as improving the building entryway. - Construction of a women's softball field. The remainder of the proceeds of the trust will go toward construction of a women's softball field, Edmondson said. Women's softball is one of the fastest growing sports at Alfred University, with 21 new recruits for the 2007-08 academic year. To provide a permanent home for the team, which has previously played its home games in Hornell, the University plans to construct a field at the site of Tucker Field, next to the McLane Center and Merrill Field. Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$300,000.