

Robana presents paper at conference hosting Nobel Prize winners

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Dr. Abderrahman Robana, professor of finance in the College of Business for the last 36 years, represented Alfred University at the fourth annual International Finance Conference in Tunisia, March 15-17, 2007, where he presented his research paper on "The Emergence of the Maghreb in the Global Economy." The conference featured professionals from all over the world presenting reports on advances in finance through financial models, theories, and practices. The conference attendees included two Nobel Prize recipients. James Heckman, who received the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics in 2000 for his pioneering work in econometrics and microeconomics, gave a paper focused on his empirical research in labor economics, particularly regarding the efficacy of early childhood education programs. The second influential presenter was Harry Markowitz, who spoke via teleconference. He won the Nobel Prize in 1990 for his pioneering work in modern portfolio theory, studying the effects of asset risk, correlation and diversification on expected investment portfolio returns. His presentation stressed the significance of Adam Smith's contribution to a free economy. Robana's paper detailed the responses of five North African states to global economic challenges in the 21st century. The focus of the paper is on the progress of the individual Maghreb States since their 1995-98 bilateral partnership agreements between the European Union within its Mediterranean strategy framework. A set of papers presented at the conference will be selected and published in a special issue of the International Journal of Business. Robana has been a finance faculty member since 1971, a Sam Walton Fellow since 1997, and served as the Tredennick Professor of Entrepreneurship. The National Honor Society in Business Administration of Delta Mu Delta named one of its annual scholarships after him. Robana has also served as a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies. He has also done research on how to enhance student learning through simulations in the field of finance, securitization and country risk assessment applied to China.