

Career Center to celebrate 10th year in historical building

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Alfred University's Career Development Center (CDC) will celebrate its 10th anniversary at the historical Alfred landmark, the Steinheim, on Dec. 7, 2007. The anniversary will kick off with an opening reception at 2 p.m. for invited guests, which will include a cake-cutting, refreshments, and a tour. Following will be an open house at 3 p.m. for AU students, faculty, staff, and community members. Door prizes will be given away at this time as well. The Steinheim was originally called the Allen Steinheim Museum. It was initially intended as the house for Mrs. Ida F. Kenyon, wife of the University's first president, William C. Kenyon. Mrs. Kenyon abandoned the project and in 1876 President Jonathan Allen and his wife, Abigail, purchased the site and continued to build. President Allen was inspired by German castles that he had seen and began collecting stones to construct the Steinheim which means stone home within a three-mile radius of Alfred. About a half million years ago, the great glaciers deposited these stones on the shores of glacial Lake Alfred, and as a result President Allen was able to include between seven and eight thousand samples of different rocks in the exterior of the building. The interior of the building was finished with seven or eight hundred specimens of wood, including fruit trees and shrub, collected from the hills of Alfred and also gathered from various parts of the world. The Steinheim was used temporarily in 1879 as a classroom and was used as a residence only once when President Allen was quarantined there with small pox. In 1896, four years after President's Allen's death, Abigail deeded the Steinheim and the collections to the University. Thousands of visitors came from across the United States and other countries to grace its halls before it closed in 1953 due to structural deterioration. In 1973, the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Through a gift from Trustee Robert R. McComsey, in 1995, the University announced that the Steinheim would be re-established and revamped as the Robert R. McComsey Career Development Center at the Steinheim and would provide students with a top-notch facility to assist in their job placement efforts. The Robert R. McComsey Career Development Center at the Steinheim was dedicated on Oct. 6, 1997, providing centralized career development to all students. Kathy Woughter became director of the Career Development Center, succeeding John Carvagna, who was briefly director from 1995 to 1997. Also in 1997, the CDC won the Innovation Award from the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers, a very competitive award which was open to over 350 schools. In 2004, Mark McFadden succeeded Kathy Woughter as director of the CDC, a position that he continues to hold today. In the 10 years since the CDC has resided in the Steinheim, it has offered many opportunities for a growing number of students. For example, 1,594 individual sessions last year, 442 resume critiques, and about 100 companies on campus. The staff also implemented e-mail advising and walk-in hours. The CDC staff has been professionally active and respected in their careers. McFadden just finished a term as president of the Middle Atlantic Career Counseling Association, and both Woughter and Nancy Williams were active in the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers; Williams is currently on the executive board. The staff developed a class in career and professional development, Business 102, which is open to all students at Alfred University through the College of Business. They conduct career check-ups for all sophomore students who have not yet been into the CDC. This has resulted in many students finding their way to the Steinheim who may otherwise have not. The staff also developed a popular etiquette dinner and fashion show, now sponsored by Kohler Inc. and AVI (campus food service vendor) so that it's free to students. They have also developed a full range of career services for art students that now include workshops, career fairs, and many alumni contacts. The staff hires a diverse group of interns, work-study students and graduate assistants each year, providing experience to students, as well as showing several what a great job it is. Several past interns and work-study students have gone on to work in the field of career development themselves. Woughter believes that "The Career Development Center is the best of its kind for a small college or university - and I'm not even sure I need that qualifier on the end. It's comfortable for students while being professional enough for employers." The staff are excellent planners, staying on top of [the] job market trends and career services innovations while always keeping student education first and foremost in mind," she said. "The facility is beautiful and functional, but it takes more than looks to succeed. The professional staff, support staff, student workers and AU students are what makes it so successful." McFadden says "Alfred University has a rich history of career services that has continued to grow over the past several decades. During the 2006-07 academic year, our office provided 1,594 individual appointments, 77 workshops for over 1,500 attendees, three major career-related events, numerous field days, and much more. Our staff works closely with our many partners on and off campus and we have been recognized by numerous national and regional organizations for our level of professionalism and commitment to

this field."