

Professor, grad student present at international conference

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Alfred University Professor of Finance Dr. Abderrahman Robana and graduate student Jarrod Rywolt presented during the 5th International Finance Conference (IFC5) in Tunisia March 12-14, 2009. Rywolt, a graduate student in the MBA program, was invited to accompany Robana to present his paper, "U.S. Economic Indicators, Democratic and Republican Administrators" before distinguished professionals, teachers, and students in the field. His paper discusses "selected U.S. macroeconomic indicators and their performance under various Presidential administrators from Truman, through G.W. Bush, January 1948 through December 2008." The selected indicators include GDP under recessions and expansion periods, unemployment, inflation, and performance in the stock market. During his discussion, predictions for the Obama administration amongst current global economic turmoil were given." Robana, who presented "The U.S. Financial Housing Crisis and its Global Repercussions," presented in the same room before about 50 people, residing all over the world. Rywolt commented, "It was a melting pot for finance and economics," including a presentation by Andrew Prescott, a 2004 Nobel Laureate, "on the transformation of macroeconomic policy." Rywolt continued, "I have business cards and contact information of people from France, Spain, Turkey, Romania, and Greece." He explained the sense of intensity for learning and education, further stating "Tunisia seemed isolated from the global economic crisis, and the people he met were academically impressive." Rywolt, originally from Fairfield, CT, graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1990. He will graduate in May 2009 with an MBA from the Alfred University College of Business. Robana has attended each of the five International Finance Conferences held in Tunisia. He has been a finance faculty member at AU 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 done research on how to enhance student learning through simulations in the field of finance, securitization, and country risk assessment applied to China. The experience presented an opportunity for Alfred, explained Rywolt. "I have never been across the Atlantic, and I am glad I went. It was a beautiful country; the people were warm and welcoming." Jessica Marble '11