

AU student investment group competes this weekend at Dayton

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ALFRED, NY An Alfred University club that manages a stock portfolio on behalf of the University will participate in an elite competition this weekend hosted by the University of Dayton. Alfred University's Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) is one of only 16 teams from colleges and universities around the world chosen to compete at Dayton as part of the R.I.S.E. (Redefining Investment Strategy Education) VIII Forum. This marks the eighth year Dayton has hosted the R.I.S.E. Forum. Dr. Abderrahman Robana, professor of finance at Alfred University and SMIF advisor, will accompany four AU students Steve Pelletier, a senior accounting major from Danbury, CT and SMIF president; August Golinski, a junior finance major from Independence, OH; Paul Everon, a senior finance major; and Daniel Ross, a sophomore accounting major from Madison, CT to the three-day event, Thursday-Saturday, March 27-29. Alfred's SMIF portfolio will be judged against other student-managed funds competing in the undergraduate category. Judged criteria will include portfolio growth and value; alternative and fixed income styles of management; risk-adjusted returns; and the quality of students' presentation to judges. Robana said the panel of judges at Friday's competition will be made of Wall Street professionals. SMIF is managed by a student club made up of business and non-business majors. The fund was initiated in 1995 when the AU Board of Trustees authorized a group of Robana's students to manage \$100,000 of the University's Endowment Fund. Students, under the direction of faculty advisors, invest the money in a variety of stocks, with the goal of building a diversified portfolio and adding value and growth. The fund's value reached \$320,000 eight years ago, but declining tech stocks caused it to decrease to less than half that amount in the summer of 2002. It has steadily increased and today is valued at more than \$200,000, with more than 20 students participating in its management. Alfred's Student Managed Investment Fund, along with the other 15 finalists competing at Dayton, was chosen from among several applicant groups. Applications were reviewed by investment professionals from Morningstar, Inc., a leading provider of independent investment research in the United States and in major international markets. "To be chosen as one of 16 (finalists) is quite an accomplishment," Robana commented. "We are honored to be included in this group." Friday's competition is but a part of a host of activities planned for R.I.S.E. VIII. The three-day event will include several keynote presentations from internationally renowned industry leaders discussing a wide range of issues, including the economy; markets; corporate governance and responsibility; regulatory and legislative issues; and the Federal Reserve. In addition, there will be breakout discussions which address a host of issues related to investing; portfolio management and security analysis workshops; and a Career Strategies Forum aimed at addressing techniques for succeeding in the competitive marketplace. A highlight of the event will come Friday afternoon, when NASDAQ rings its closing bell from the Dayton campus. Robana noted that students attending the event will have the opportunity to network with fellow students and investment professionals. "Students have a chance to interact with potential employers as well as their peers; they will hear presentations from experts in the field (of financial investing); and they will learn about different career options available to them," Robana said. "This is a great opportunity for the students."