

Successful developer, portfolio manager to speak at Alfred University

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ALFRED Jerome Zwickel's career since graduating from Alfred University more than 40 years ago has been as varied as it's been distinguished. For the last five years, he has been president of Carolina Concord Group, a portfolio management company he started in Charlotte, NC. He's also been a successful real estate developer, building some of the first Wal-Mart department stores in the Southeast, and has taught at several colleges and universities. "Where you start from is not necessarily where you'll end up. I've had three careers that are very different, but all have been linked together," Zwickel said. "It all started at Alfred." Zwickel will talk about his career path and the challenges he's faced on Wednesday, Oct. 8 on the AU campus. His presentation, part of the University's Contemporary Issues in Business course, will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Olin Building. When he came to Alfred, Zwickel had no idea he would enjoy a successful career in business. He enrolled in the pre-med program but eventually switched majors, graduating in 1961 with a bachelor's degree in English. He would earn a master's degree in American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania before embarking on a career teaching literature and business classes at West Virginia, Villanova and Drexel universities. From teaching, he went on to a 20-year career in real estate in which he and his wife, Lorette, started Zwickel Group, Inc., a real estate development firm in Tampa, FL, which built the first Wal-Mart stores in Florida. From 1995-98 he worked as a portfolio manager at Salomon Smith Barney in Charlotte before leaving to start Carolina Concord Group, a financial/strategic planning and portfolio management firm he owns and operates from his home in Matthews, NC. "My message to students will be that you don't know where your classes will take you, but if you utilize your education properly, it will provide a foundation for whatever eventuality comes about," Zwickel said. The Contemporary Issues in Business course brings noted business leaders, many of them Alfred University alumni, to campus to share their experiences and discuss current issues they consider important. Speakers also talk about the philosophies and strategies they followed to achieve success. The public is invited to attend the course sessions, which are being held throughout the fall semester.