

Alfred University Professor Named to 'Who's Who Among Teachers'

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Alfred, NY -- Zakia Robana, assistant professor of French at Alfred University, has been chosen for inclusion in Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2000. Robana, who has taught at AU since 1980, was nominated for Who's Who by Anastasia Kile, a 1998 graduate now enrolled in the University of San Diego Law School. Nominations to Who's Who are made by students who have themselves been cited for academic excellence by being named to the National Dean's List. Who's Who includes only 2.5 percent of the nation's college teachers. A graduate of the University of Tunis (in Tunisia, Africa), Robana also holds two degrees from Alfred University -- a 1978 bachelor's degree and a 1981 master's degree in French and special education. All her courses in French language, literature, and culture -- including French for beginners -- are taught in French. She also teaches a popular and unusual course in Francophone African writers. In addition, Robana has given dozens of presentations to high school groups, college groups, and community groups. Robana's current research subjects include Dr. Doria Shafic, a feminist Arab leader; Leon l'Africain revisited; and the enduring partnership between the Jews and Moslems of Djerba. "Mrs. Robana is one of the hardest teachers I had at Alfred University, (and) one of the best," said another former student, Kelly Mehaffey '96, who has now graduated with honors from the Elliott School of International Affairs. "She always pushed me to work to my potential while making me believe I could." She added that since all Robana's classes were conducted entirely in French, she adjusted easily to working and thinking in that language when she studied in France during her junior year.