

Gift to benefit Herrick Memorial Library

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A bequest from an anonymous donor will allow to Alfred University to renovate Herrick Memorial Library. "Today's libraries are much more than repositories for books and periodicals, or even on-line databases," said Alfred University President Charles M. Edmondson. "With technology, libraries become transparent portals opening onto an array of information. This generous gift from an anonymous donor will help us to transform Herrick Memorial Library into such a 'window on the world.'" "There is no more important site on any college or university campus than the library," said Edmondson. "This generous bequest will allow us to transform Herrick Library into a facility that will serve the students of Alfred University well for the next 160 years." Under the terms of the bequest, the University will receive \$1.8 million to renovate the library, and an additional \$300,000 for acquisition of library materials. A Cultural Caf will be the centerpiece of the renovated library, explained Alfred University Librarian Lana Meissner, who is also assistant vice president for information technology. "We envision the caf as a signature project, featuring flexible, collaborative learning centers that would provide opportunities for groups of students and faculty to exchange ideas, explore multicultural resources and opportunities and experience creative learning environments." The space, which will be located at what is now the main entrance of Herrick Library, will have windows overlooking the center of campus. "It would be a place where students and faculty could gather to chat or collaborate with colleagues in remote locations via the internet," said Meissner. "Groups such as the highly-successful Global Awareness Roundtable" might meet with alumni living around the world using video conferencing technology." She is also proposing a number of flexible learning spaces be featured in the renovation. "These spaces - for seminars, presentations or collaborative projects - would be designed to entice students and faculty to experiment with integrating information resources using the best technologies. Each area would be equipped to handle multimedia presentations and video conferencing, making them ideal locations to bring guest speakers or experts to Alfred via the internet or a video 'gateway.'" Meissner said the library renovation would also provide space in the library for the University's Study Abroad office and support services for international students and ethnic minorities.