

College of Business enhances its environment

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The Alfred University College of Business has enhanced its environment, adding facilities to keep students connected to real-world finances. Last summer, there was a major addition to the third floor of The Franklin W. Olin College of Business building. A stock trading room was designed thanks to a gracious gift from Alfred University Trustee Jeffery Maurer, AU class of 1969, and his wife, Wendy Maurer. The room includes tote boards, financial news displays, and a commodity exchange quote board that allows quick, easy access to electronic sources of financial and investment data. The trading room has enthused a great deal of discussion among students and, most specifically, an increase in the interest shown in the Alfred University Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF), as the room makes the trading aspect both translucent and persuasive. The College of Business is not only changing physically but there have been some personnel changes as well. Assistant Professor of Finance Adel Al-Sharkas relocated to his hometown in Jordan, where he is currently a professor at American University. Although he is not here physically, his presence is still on campus through his online courses. After two years at Alfred University, David Martin relinquished his dean's position to Assistant Provost Dr. William Hall to take a position at Bloomsburg University. Hall is now acting interim dean. In addition, Accounting Chairman Daniel D. Acton, professor of accountancy, is serving his last year here at AU, having announced his retirement at the end of the academic year. The newest addition to the College of Business family is Assistant Professor of Marketing William J. Ward, who replaced Professor of Marketing John Howard, who retired last spring. The College of Business has big plans for its students, wanting students to experience the world outside the United States. This January, Professor of Business Frank G. Duserick and Professor of Marketing Amy B. Rummel will lead a group of 30 students through Northern Italy. During spring break 2007, Associate Professor of Economics Dr. Claret Ruane will host a trip to Guam. The College of Business is going big places and is taking its students with it.