

College of Business

Bergami Finance and Technology Center Offers Hands-On Training

Eva Lalai, an M.B.A. student at UNH, hopes to find a job in investment banking after she graduates in June. She says her experiences in the College of Business's Samuel S. Bergami Jr. Learning Center for Finance and Technology will help.

"The center is amazing," says Lalai, who discovered it while taking a course on equity evaluations last semester.

"There was nothing like it at my undergraduate college. It has all of the databases that real companies use to evaluate stock options. Students have an opportunity to do real hands-on work with the tools they will be using on the job."

The Center was a gift from Lois and Samuel S. Bergami Jr., '85 E.M.B.A., chairman of the UNH Board of Governors and a widely respected Connecticut business leader. "I believe that giving back is more than a simple act of generosity," he says. "It is an obligation of those that have enjoyed the benefits provided by others."

Not only has Bergami been an exceptionally generous benefactor to his alma mater, but his gifts have had long-lasting impact. When he created the Bergami Learning Center five years ago, he dramatically re-engineered education in the College of Business. Designed to upgrade the technology content in the College's curriculum,

supporting research and promoting financial literacy, the Center was immediately popular with students and faculty alike. It provided cutting-edge technology and gave students unprecedented opportunities to experience the modern tools of finance and trading.

"Mr. Bergami's generous donation made an extraordinary impact on the technology content in our courses," says Richard Highfield, dean of the College of Business. "Thanks to him, our students now have access to significantly more databases than they did before, as well as very current data, comparable to that used in trading rooms all over the country. On top of that,

we have a wealth of historical financial data that can be used for analysis."

The Center makes it possible for students and faculty to work with many of the latest financial technology databases and a broad array of leading analysis software products.

Equipped with state-of-the-art computers, it is used for classes and research. And it hosts a large number of workshops, seminars and other special events each semester, some of which take advantage of its video teleconferencing capability.

"I saw an opportunity to significantly enhance the College's learning technology," says Bergami. "The equipment we've made available affords students both opportunities to research key databases and get hands-on experience with state-of-the-art technology."

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