



Real-world Learning

Employing a competitive edge

Students access real-time Wall Street financial data and information technology in new lab

BY KELSEY MOHRING ('12)

For many seniors, the fear of not finding a job after graduation is a huge theme. In a time when jobs are scarce, JMU students are doing everything they can to rise above their competition. For quantitative finance major Ed Andrews ('12) of Sparta, N.J., that competitive edge came through the Capital Markets Lab in the JMU College of Business. Andrews already had a job waiting for him when he graduated in May, largely due to the real-world experience he gained through the resources in the new campus lab.


The Capital Markets Lab was built through a generous contribution from Enrico S. Gaglioti ('94), a College of

Business marketing alumnus. The lab is equipped with 12 Bloomberg terminals, a professional investment computer system created for the financial marketplace. It also features two 50-inch flat panel displays with cable news feeds, a catchy stock ticker above the Zane Showker Hall Room 109 entrance and a wide range of systems and databases that allow students to access a wealth of information. Elias Semaan, JMU professor of finance and business law, says the lab is not only an invaluable resource for the students, but that it has significantly enhanced teaching.

Bloomberg, the main database system used in the lab, is the industry elite of financial databases. Including Bloomberg

Forbes Nod

Forbes ranks JMU in top 40

Forbes magazine ranks JMU No. 38 in the nation in the online "Best Buy" section of its 2012 ranking of "America's 650 Top Colleges." The annual rankings, which are compiled exclusively for *Forbes* by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for College Affordability and Productivity, focus on the things that matter most to students: quality of teaching, career prospects, successful graduation rates and low-levels of student loan debt. According to the *Forbes* website, the rankings do "not assess a school's reputation, nor are they a measure of academic selectivity. We pointedly ignore any metrics that would encourage schools to engage in wasteful spending." The rankings are based on five general categories: post graduation success, student satisfaction, student loan debt, four-year graduation rates, and competitive awards, like prestigious scholarships and fellowships. 

* Read more at www.jmu.edu/madisononline

