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1-3-2008

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University Relations, "Jeff Ulrich '95, will deliver the 2008 Latterell Lecture" (2008). *Campus News Archive*. 1082.

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Jeff Ulrich '95, will deliver the 2008 Latterell Lecture

Summary: Jeff Ulrich '95, will deliver the 2008 Joseph J. Latterell Visiting Alumnus Program Lecture on January 31. His speech, to be given at 7:30 p.m. in Science 1020, is titled "From molecular dynamics to hedge fund mathematics: the career of a UMM physics graduate."

(January 3, 2008)-Jeff Ulrich '95, will deliver the 2008 Joseph J. Latterell Visiting Alumnus Program Lecture on Thursday, Jan. 31, at the University of Minnesota, Morris. His speech, to be given at 7:30 p.m. in Science room 1020, is titled "From molecular dynamics to hedge fund mathematics: the career of a UMM physics graduate." The senior software engineer at EBF & Associates, a large Minneapolis-based hedge fund, develops trading systems for complex financial vehicles.

Ulrich said he will convey to students and others that the skills they build through a physics degree can be a springboard to success along a number of different career paths. "Using my own history as an example, I want to demonstrate how quantitative skills, coupled with a good software background, can land one many different opportunities for achievement," said Ulrich. He will reflect on how unique Morris opportunities - specifically the Morris Academic Partnership (MAP) and the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) - helped him at several points in his post-graduate and industrial experience. He will also relay the benefits that a liberal arts education has realized in his career.

Following his graduation from UMM with majors in physics and computer science and a minor in mathematics, Ulrich continued to study graduate physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, ultimately earning a master's in physics there while specializing in molecular dynamics simulations of macromolecules.

"After a six-month stint as a community college instructor in physics at Champaign, I entered the world of industry as a systems engineer at MTS Systems in Eden Prairie," added Ulrich. "I worked for five years designing signal processing software and methods for large-scale road simulators and noise, vibration and harshness applications. I held a variety of positions while at MTS, ultimately ending up as the chief architect for a next-generation NVH product suite of signal processing software.

"Upon leaving MTS, my career has taken a different turn in the direction of quantitative finance," said Ulrich. For the last five years he has been employed as a senior software engineer at EBF & Associates, a large Minneapolis-based hedge fund. "Here I have worked with a number of other physicists to develop trading systems for complex financial vehicles such as equity and bond derivatives, insurance and annuity arbitrage products and private equity investments.

He resides in Waconia with his wife and two children.

"I look forward to visiting with current students and faculty," said Ulrich. "I hope to share my experiences and offer advice to future graduates where I can."

Privately funded with gifts from alumni, faculty, staff and Latterell friends and family, the Joseph J. Latterell Memorial Visiting Alumnus Program provides annual grants to disciplines within the UMM Science and Mathematics Division to invite alumni to campus to serve as resource persons for students and faculty.

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