

Number 12
June 27, 2003

Report from the DETC Accrediting Commission

Two Commissioners Re-Elected

The two Institution Academic Members of the Commission were re-elected by the DETC members at the April 14th Annual Business Meeting. Mr. Brook Ellis of Gemological Institute of America, and Dr. Gary L. Seevers of Global University, were re-elected to serve a second term on the Commission that ends 2006.

Brook Ellis joined the Gemological Institute of America in Carlsbad, CA in 1995 as the Vice President of Operations, and he became the Vice President of Education in 1996. Brook's distinguished career in the jewelry industry began in 1959 with Henry Birks & Sons, Ltd., one of Canada's largest fine jewelry chain retailers. He worked with Henry Birks & Sons until 1995, and ultimately achieved the position of Vice President of Fine Jewelry. During his tenure with Henry Birks and Sons, LTD, Brook also held positions with the American Gem Society, the 24 Karat Club of America, the Jewellers Vigilance Canada, Inc., *Jewellery World Magazine*, and the Jewelers Education Foundation. He served on GIA's Board of Governors from 1983-1995. Brook received a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Toronto, Canada in 1959. He received the American Gem Society's "Registered Jeweller" designation in 1961 and the "Certified Gemologist" in 1964. Brook was elected to the DETC Board of Trustees in 2000 and was elected Second Vice President of DETC in 2001.

Gary L. Seevers, Jr. is a veteran evaluator for the Commission and has served as both educational standards examiner and as Chair on several accrediting committees, both in the U.S. and overseas. Dr. Seevers earned a Ph.D. in Educational Research and Evaluation, an Ed.D. (ABD) in Higher Education, and a Certificate in Advanced Graduate Studies in Higher Education Administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), an M.Ed. in Education Psychology-Social Foundations from the University of Virginia, and a B.S. in Bible and an Evangelistic Teacher Training Association from Valley Forge Christian College. Dr. Seevers joined ICI University in 1994. He previously served as the Director of Research and Evaluation, Dean of University Relations, and the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The DETC Accrediting Commission, the nationally recognized accrediting association for distance learning institutions, met on June 6-7, 2003 and took the following actions:

Seven New Institutions Accredited

The following institutions are accredited as of June 6, 2003:

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)

Continuing Education and Training
233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2150
Chicago, IL 60601

(Phone: 312-233-1100; Fax: 312-233-1500; E-mail:
continuing.education@ahima.org; Web Site: <http://campus.ahima.org>)

Linda A. Kloss, President and CEO
Lana Vukovljak, MA, MS, Director, Continuing Education and Training
(E-mail: lane.vukovljak@ahima.org)

Founded in 1928. Web-based continuing education courses in Anatomy and Physiology, APC Training Program, Coding Training, HIPAA and Privacy, Healthcare Information Management, and Specialty Advancement Programs in Clinical Data Management, Privacy Healthcare Data Analytics, and Healthcare Compliance.

Australasian College of Herbal Studies

5940 SW Hood Avenue
Portland, OR 97239

(Phone: 503-244-0726; Fax: 503-244-0727; E-mail: achs@herbed.com;
Web Site: <http://www.herbed.com>)

Dorene Petersen, Principal, President
(E-mail: dorenepetersen@herbed.com)

Founded 1978 (2003/2008). Programs include diploma in Herbal Studies, Master Herbalist; Certificate/Diploma in Aromatherapy; Certificate/Diploma in Homeobotanical Therapy; Certificates also in Iridology, Homeopathy, Nutrition, Flower Essences, and Holistic Structure and Function of the Body.

Holmes Institute

3251 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90075

(Phone: 213-637-0737; Fax: 213-388-1926; E-mail:
holmesinst@earthlink.net; Web Site: <http://www.holmesinstitute.com>)

C. Gordon Bishop, M.Div., Ed.D., President
(E-mail: revgordonbishop@aol.com)

Founded 1972 (2003/2008). Master of Arts in Consciousness Studies.

Instituto Postsecundario de Educación a Distancia (IPED)

Carretera 183, Km.1.7
P.O. Box 8517
Caguas, Puerto Rico 00726

The Commission accredited seven new institutions and re-accredited three institutions.

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(Phone: 787-743-4041; Fax: 787-746-5616; Web Site:

<http://www.columbiaco.edu>)

Alex A. DeJorge, Executive Director

Founded 2001 (2003/2008). All courses written in Spanish. Courses in Spanish, English, business English, world history, political sciences, industrial psychology, administration, management, human resources, accounting and finance, and general sciences.

International Import-Export Institute

2432 West Peoria, Suite 1026

Phoenix, AZ 85029

(Phone: 602-648-5750 or 1-800-474-8013; Fax: 602-648-5755; E-mail: info@expandglobal.com; Web Site <http://www.expandglobal.com>)

Donald Burton, Ph.D., Executive Director

Founded 1995 (2003/2008). Bachelor of Science in International Trade, industry training courses, corporate training programs, and private industry training courses.

Universidad FLET

14540 SW 136th Street, Suite 200

Miami, FL 33186

(Phone: 305-232-5880; Fax: 305-232-3592; E-mail: admisiones@flet.edu; Web Site: <http://www.flet.edu>)

Leslie Thompson, President (E-mail: lthompson@logoi.org)

Larry McCullough, D.Min., Vice President of Education

(E-mail: mccullough@logoi.org)

Founded 1977 (2003/2008). Training pastors, teachers, and church leaders throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Courses in Bible studies, Christian education, theological studies, and general education. Bachelor's (B.A.) in Biblical Studies and Theology, and Master's in Theological Studies.

William Howard Taft University

201 East Sandpointe Avenue

Santa Ana, CA 92707

(Phone 714-850-4800 or 800-882-4555; Fax: 714-708-2082; E-mail: admissions@TaftU.edu; Web Site: <http://www.TaftU.edu>)

David L. Boyd, President (E-mail: boyd@TaftU.edu)

Founded 1976. Offers graduate degree programs in law (Juris Doctor), taxation (Master of Laws in Taxation and Master of Science in Taxation), and business (Master of Business Administration with concentrations in Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management, Health Care Administration, and Professional Practice Management).

Three Institutions Reaccredited

The following institutions were re-accredited:

American Graduate University

733 North Dodsworth Avenue

Covina, CA 91724

(Phone: 626-966-4576; Fax: 626-915-1709; E-mail: info@agu.edu; Web Site: <http://www.agu.edu>)

Lawrence Hamm, President

Founded 1969 (1998/2008). Master of Acquisition Management and Master of Project Management; and professional certificate and development courses in project/program management, contract and procurement management, financial management, and general management.

Rhodec International (U.K.)

35 East Street

Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1HL, England

(Phone: 011-44-1273-327476; Fax: 011-44-1273-821668; E-mail: contact@rhodec.edu; Web Site: <http://www.rhodec.edu>)

Michael Dwyer, Principal (E-mail: michael@rhodec.edu)

Founded 1960 (1998/2008). Associate diploma course and professional Diploma course in Interior Design. Cooperative Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design degrees offered through London Metropolitan University and American InterContinental University.

Rhodec International (U.S.)

59 Coddington Street, Suite 104

Quincy, MA 02169

(Phone: 617-472-4942 or 877-2RHODEC; Fax: 617-472-3400; E-mail: uscontact@rhodec.edu; Web Site: <http://www.rhodec.edu>). Founded 1998 (1998/2008). See listing above.

Susan Santorelli, Director of U.S. Affairs (E-mail: rhodec@msn.com)

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences

One University Boulevard

St. Augustine, FL 32086-5783

(Phone: 904-826-0084 or 1-800-241-1027; Fax: 904-826-0085; E-mail: info@usa.edu; Web Site: <http://www.usa.edu>)

Stanley V. Paris, Ph.D., P.T., President (E-mail: sparis@usa.edu)

Founded 1979 (1993/2008). Combination distance study and resident courses leading to clinical certificates and a post-professional Master of Health Science and Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Two Institutions Denied Initial Accreditation

St. John's University, Springfield, LA

The University School, Bridgeport, CT

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Approved New Courses/Programs

The Commission also approved the following new courses and/or degree programs:

Allied Business Schools, Inc., Laguna Hills, CA

- *Medical Administrative Assistant*
- *Medical Keyboarding*
- *Medical Terminology*

American Public University System, American Military University, Charles Town, WV

- *Bachelor of Arts in American Studies*
- *Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration*
- *Master of Arts in Business Administration*
- *Bachelor of Arts in English*
- *Bachelor of Arts in History*
- *Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy*
- *Bachelor of Arts in Psychology*
- *Bachelor of Arts in Religion*
- *Bachelor of Arts in Sociology*
- *Bachelor of Arts in Corrections Management*
- *Master of Arts in Security Management*
- *Master of Science in Space Studies*
- *Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies*

These new courses are included in the *DETC 2003-2004 Directory of Accredited Institutions* enclosed.

Ashworth College, Norcross, GA

- *Associate Degree in Psychology*

Education Direct, Scranton, PA

- *Criminal Justice*

Global University, Springfield, MO

- *BIB 1072/3 Paul's Salvation Letters: Galatians and Roman*

Sessions.edu, Online School of Design, New York, NY

- *Digital Art Photography*
- *CSS Essentials*
- *Web Graphics using Photoshop/Imageready*
- *GoLive Basics*
- *Website 101*
- *Advanced Logo Design*
- *Flash Experience Design*

University of Management & Technology, Arlington, VA

- *Associate of Business Administration (ABA) program*
- *Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program*

Western Governors University (WGU), Salt Lake City, UT

- *Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies*
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- *Master of Arts in Teaching*
- *Master of Arts in Mathematics Education*

Change of Location

The Commission noted that Richard Milburn High School moved to 3421 Commission Court, Suite 201, Woodbridge, VA 22192 (phone: 703-494-0147 or 877-888-WISE; Fax: 703-494-6093).

Institution Name Changes

ISIM University changed its name to: **Aspen University** (<http://www.aspen.edu>)

University of Action Learning changed its name to: **Revans University - The University of Action Learning** (<http://www.revans-university.edu>)

The revision to the Policy on Degree programs allows institutions to accept a maximum of 75 percent of the credits required for associate and baccalaureate degrees.

Changes Adopted

The Accrediting Commission also voted to adopt changes to the following policies. These changes are effective July 1, 2003. Please note that the complete Policy and Form may be viewed from DETC's web site at www.detc.org by selecting the appropriate link on the home page.

C.9. – Policy on Degree Programs : New language increases the percentage of transfer credits allowed for an associate degree from 50 percent to 75 percent. The new language on page 8 of the Policy under “Transfer and Equivalent Credit” now reads:

The new accreditation fees go into effect July 1, 2003.

*“A maximum of one-half of the credits required for master’s degrees may be given through transfer credit or a combination of transfer credit and experiential or equivalent credit. For **associate** or baccalaureate degrees, a maximum of **three-fourths** of the credits required may be rewarded for transfer credit or a combination of transfer credit and experiential or equivalent credit. For no student, however, may the credit given for experiential or equivalent learning exceed one-fourth of the credits required for a degree.”*

Form I.1. – Accreditation Fees: Application Fees are increased from \$300 to \$1,000 for initial accreditation, and from \$300 to \$500 for re-accreditation. Visitation Fees and Readiness Visitation Fees are increased from \$1,500 to \$1,800 for each committee member on an on-site visit. Subject Specialist Fees are increased from \$850 to \$1,000 for multiple courses or degree programs submitted for review, and the fee for requesting a new reviewer and a third evaluation for courses receiving “B” or “C” ratings increases from \$850 to \$1,000 for degree programs.

Call for Comments on Proposed new Guide and Revised Policy

DETC's Research and Educational Standards Subcommittee established a Task Force to respond to the many comments from DETC-accredited institutions concerning the effort involved with the five-year re-accreditation process. The Task Force developed a new “Guide to Self-Evaluation Report for 5-Year Review,” and revised the “Policy on Course/Program Approval.” The new

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If you would like to read the new "Guide to Self-Evaluation Report for 5-Year Review," and the revised "Policy on Course/Program Approval," please go to www.detc.org and select the appropriate link from the scrolling copy on home page.

Guide and revised Policy were approved by the Committee and presented to the Accrediting Commission for its approval at the June meeting. The Commission voted to approve the new Guide and revised Policy and send it out for public comment.

The new guide is a streamlined version of the current "A. Guide to Self-Evaluation." It takes into account that institutions have met the accreditation standards previously, and it allows institutions to provide much of the supporting documentation at the time of the on-site visit. Another major change is that under Standard II, Educational Program Objectives, the institution would only have to provide copies of the educational objectives for five of its most popular courses or degree programs. "Most popular" is defined by the highest enrollments.

Revised C.5. – Policy on Course/Program Approval. The changes to this policy address the number of courses an institution must send in for their five-year review. The new policy allows institutions to send as few as one-third of its courses/programs depending on how many courses/programs are offered. Institutions are given a "selection criteria" to help them select which courses/programs should be sent in for review.

Due to the extensive length of these documents, you may read them by visiting DETC's web site at www.detc.org and selecting the links from the home page. The Accrediting Commission invites comments on the proposed new Guide and revised policy by **December 1, 2003**.

National Advisory Committee Accepts DETC's Outcomes Assessment Plan

The new procedures may be found in the *DETC Accreditation Handbook* available at www.detc.org under "Publications." Go to "C.14 – Policy on Student Achievement and Satisfaction," and "B.10. Guide to Student Achievement and Satisfaction."

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity of the U.S. Department of Education met June 10th and voted to accept DETC's new Outcome Assessment procedures.

Over a year in development, DETC's new outcomes procedures are a pioneering attempt at coming to terms with federal requirements for measuring institutional outcomes in a distance learning setting. The procedures stress three major areas: professed student satisfaction, third party and other test score results and program graduation rates as measured against the institution's peer group.

In reviewing the DETC report, the Advisory Committee commended DETC for going beyond the minimum requirements of the law. One member stated that DETC is the clear expert in distance learning accreditation and may be able to show the way for other agencies that are confronting outcomes assessment.

Comments Invited

The Commission invites comments from any interested party concerning any of the institutions listed below. You may send your comments to the Executive Director at the DETC offices by no later than **December 1, 2003**.

Institutions Seeking Initial Accreditation:

AHS Institute, Association for Hebraic Studies, Suffern, NY
Central State University, Riverside, CA
Century University, Albuquerque, NM
Educational Correspondence Training School, Erie, PA
IMPAC University, Punta Gorda, FL
International Sports Sciences Association, Santa Barbara, CA
KLC School of Design, London, England, UK
Lansbridge University, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada
Rescue College, Kansas City, MO
Sonoran Desert Institute, Scottsdale, AZ
Southwest University, Kenner, LA

Institutions Seeking Re-Accreditation:

Aspen University (formerly ISIM University), Denver, CO
Aviation & Electronic Schools of America (AESA), Colfax, CA
Diamond Council of America, Nashville, TN
Home Study International & Griggs University, Silver Spring, MD
Hypnosis Motivation Institute Extension School, Tarzana, CA
John Tracy Clinic, Los Angeles, CA
The Paralegal Institute, Inc., Phoenix, AZ
Richard Milburn High School, Woodbridge, VA
Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute, Nashville, TN
Centre for Labour Market Studies, University of Leicester, Leicester, England

The names of the newly accredited institutions in this Bulletin are included in the Directory, as well as the other institutions re-accredited by the DETC Accrediting Commission.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Accrediting Commission is January 9-10, 2004. All matters to be considered by the Commission should be brought to the attention of the Executive Director by **December 1, 2003**.

2003-2004 Directory

The *DETC 2003-2004 Directory of Accredited Institutions* is enclosed. The DETC web site at www.detc.org has also been updated. A PDF file of the *DETC 2003-2004 Directory of Accredited Institutions* may be downloaded from DETC's web site. Please select "Free Publications" and click on the title.

You may print the new Directory from the DETC web site.

Fall Accreditation Seminar

The Commission will hold an Accreditation Seminar on Wednesday, **October 29, 2003** in conjunction with DETC Fall Distance Education Workshop on October 26-28, at the Omni Tucson National Golf & Spa in Tucson, AZ. All institutions going through accreditation process during the 2004 calendar year should seriously consider sending a representative. For more information on the Workshop, please visit DETC's web site (www.detc.org) and select the "About Us" tab, and then select "Meetings and Reports" in the left-hand column.

Michael P. Lambert, Executive Director
Enclosure