

DETC

2009



Outstanding Graduates
and
Famous Alumni

Published by the
Distance Education and Training Council
1601 18th Street, NW, Suite 2
Washington, DC 20009
202-234-5100; fax 202-332-1386
<http://www.detc.org>

Printed by Cleveland Institute of Electronics, Cleveland, Ohio

January 2009

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Introduction

There is no more gratifying aspect of our work in the Distance Education and Training Council than to read about the success of the graduates of our accredited institutions.

Our success is best viewed through the lens of what happened to those whose lives we have touched: did they put their knowledge and skills to work to make a better life for themselves and their loved ones? Have they been able to forge a better life?

This DETC brochure is our most important contribution to the outcomes measurement literature. It is our testimony to why DETC institutions play a vital role in making the world a better place. It is our proof that what we do is worthwhile for society and for individuals.

Thirty exceptional distance study graduates were selected by the institutions they attended. Selection criteria included the graduates' academic records and the level and quality of their contributions to society and to their chosen professions. We've also included stories on ten Famous Alumni.

We join with all the DETC-accredited institutions in saluting the outstanding achievements of these unique men and women who represent more than three million distance education students now studying with DETC members.

Michael P. Lambert, Executive Director

Facts About DETC

The Distance Education and Training Council is the leading advocate of quality distance education in America. The Distance Education and Training Council (DETC), a non-profit educational association located in Washington, D.C., serves as a clearinghouse of information about the field of distance education and conducts a nationally recognized accrediting agency called the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council.

The DETC was founded in 1926 and has continued in its unique role for more than eight decades, promoting sound education and good business practices in the distance education field. The nine member Accrediting Commission was established in 1955; shortly thereafter it gained the approval of the U.S. Department of Education as the “nationally recognized accrediting agency” for distance education institutions. The Accrediting Commission is also recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

There are presently 110 distance study institutions located around the world accredited by the DETC’s Accrediting Commission. The opportunity to apply for accreditation is open to private and public distance education institutions, both at the degree (Associates through the Professional Doctorate degree) and non-degree levels. Institutions which have been reviewed by the Commission have voluntarily made an intensive study of their own operations, opened their doors to thorough inspection by a qualified examining committee, and supplied all information required by the Accrediting Commission.

For a directory of accredited institutions, DETC publications, and more information on distance education, please visit our web site at www.detc.org.

Jeremy Olson Latrobe, Pennsylvania



... he is a lifelong learner

In order to further his knowledge and education in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mr. Jeremy Olson researched schools that could give him that edge he needed to propel his mediation practice. No school in his area offered an accredited mediation training program. That's when he discovered the American Center for Conflict Resolution Institute and enrolled into their Professional Mediator Training Course.

Jeremy has been a private practice mediator in Southwestern PA since 2004. He holds National Professional Certification in Mediation from the National Association of Certified Mediators. He has completed courses in mediation at the American Center for Conflict Resolution Institute and ALT Associates. He was honored as the first "Most Outstanding Graduate" from ACCRI in 2008.

Jeremy is a Founding Partner at Hayden Olson Merichko Enrichments, which specializes in developing programs of mediation and youth leadership for the juvenile justice and education fields. He is on the faculty at Seton Hill University as an adjunct professor of psychology.

"I found that during my program that expectations and requirements were clear and straight forward, the interaction with instructors was more than adequate and the testing convenience by Internet with immediate results was helpful."



Ryan Evans
Fairborn, Ohio

...his degree was perfectly suited to
his career goals

Mr. Ryan Evans knew a graduate degree would position him to be highly competitive for career advancement, but it was difficult to attend a “traditional” school. American Graduate University’s delivery format enabled him to achieve a Master of Acquisition degree while still able to spend time with his family. Ryan was an outstanding student, earning his degree with a 4.0 GPA and the highest score this year on the comprehensive examination.

Ryan began his career in federal government contracting in 1996 at McClellan AFB, CA. In 1998, he transferred to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base where he is Chief of the Distributed Mission Operations Contracts Branch, in the Training Systems Group. He supervises a team of contracting professionals who award and administer simulator and training services contracts for F-15, F-16 and other U.S.A.F. aircraft.

Born and raised in Upper Sandusky, OH, Ryan is married and has an 11 year old daughter. Not only is he a private pilot, but he enjoys model rocketry, woodworking, and is learning to play the mandolin.

“The thing that stands out about my experience with AGU was the outstanding personal support from faculty and staff, where I was like a valued member of the family rather than a faceless student number.”

Jessica Jo Eggleston
Cortland, Ohio



... she never felt alone in the program

Ms. Jessica Eggleston has been a licensed practical nurse for 13 years and has been working as a Hemodialysis nurse for the past ten years. About a year ago, she decided that she was ready for a career change and started looking into the clinical coding field because she kept hearing about the growing demand for certified coders and of their importance to healthcare organization. She went to the AHIMA website to find the approved programs and decided to enroll in the American Health Information Management Association's online Coding Basics Program.

Jessica works full-time at Fresenius Medical Care and has a family so she found the distance education program very convenient. She excelled from the very beginning and finished the 15 month 12 course Coding Basics Program in 12 months, earning 10 A's and 2 B's.

Since Jessica completed the AHIMA Coding Basics Program, she gone on to sit for and pass the Certified Coding Associate certification exam and is currently looking for her next job opportunity so she can begin her new career as a coding professional.

"AHIMA's Coding Basics Program was very well structured, and I liked the fact that the lines of communication were always open via e-mail with instructors and other students. I never felt alone while in the program."



Karen A. Cieslewicz
Edgewood, Maryland

... she saw a need for physicians
trained in disaster medicine

Dr. Karen Cieslewicz became a doctor to make a difference in the more traditional practice of medicine/surgery. When the Pentagon was attacked on 9-11, she was working as a physician in vascular research in the DC area and witnessed the response. After recognizing the emerging need for physicians trained in disaster medicine and the need to improve medical response to terrorist attacks, she decided to pursue a degree in Homeland Security. Karen enrolled at American Public University System (APUS) to complete a Master of Arts in Homeland Security and a Certificate in Emergency Management.

Karen also serves as an Instructor for the Center of Domestic Preparedness in Alabama; Disaster Medical Assistant Team and Critical Incident Stress Management in Pennsylvania; Maryland Volunteer Fire Department, Search and Rescue Team in Michigan, and the Civil Air Patrol. Karen was also selected as the 2009 Inaugural Scholar, where she will represent APUS during the 2009 University Presidential Inaugural Conference.

"I can say that the staff and faculty at American Public University System not only understood my academic aspirations, they wholeheartedly supported my efforts."

Daniel Randall

Woodland, California

... he is a tutor, mentor and future teacher



Mr. Dan Randall pursued a career in software engineering although his traditional college education was in another discipline. His passion for computer science and learning led him to seek a new degree. Distance education made this possible, even with a family and career. Dan enrolled in the Bachelor of Computer Science program at American Sentinel University.

He was gratified to discover the rigorous treatment of traditional topics, combined with newer technologies and the academic credibility of the faculty. His enthusiasm for distance learning grew beyond his own studies and the experience reawakened his interest in teaching.

Dan volunteered as a student mentor and tutor and became active in university focus groups planning for the future. Though he intends to stay active in the field of software development, Dan is pursuing his Master's degree in Computer Science and plans to follow that with a PhD. With these credentials he hopes to spend part of his time teaching Computer Science and related subjects.

"Distance learning and ASU allowed me to rediscover my love of teaching. I credit the university's programs and faculty with reminding me that participation is as rewarding as the study itself."



Jeffery Shane Hatcher Geneva, Alabama

...degree completion helped secure promotion and achieve self-satisfaction

Andrew Jackson University's program allowed Shane Hatcher to prepare for Officer Candidate School in the U.S. Army while fulfilling a fifteen-month deployment in Iraq. The personal attention that he received from the registrar allowed him to maximize transfer and equivalency credit for professional training and military education.

Shane was impressed with the superior service he received from the admissions and registrars' office. He knew immediately that AJU was the school he wanted. Continuous communication between the university staff and faculty enabled him to complete the Associate of Science in Business within a year of enrollment and the Bachelor of Science in Business within two years.

The knowledge that he gained from his degrees has allowed him to become a better leader, contribute more as a member of his unit, and qualify for more demanding positions. Now back in the U.S., he has been accepted for study in a regionally-accredited graduate program as he moves toward his goal of attending law school.

"I never expected to enjoy learning! Andrew Jackson University has given me the foundation that I need to succeed in the future."

Sheryl Hughes Antelope, California

... program allowed her to grow into
a professional artist



Ms. Sheryl Hughes is a published artist and has been featured in Northern California's magazine "Guide to the Arts." Sheryl feels that her training with Art Instruction Schools has allowed her to grow from an amateur artist to a professional artist.

One of Sheryl's paintings has been chosen by Charitycards.com, supporting Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, for use in their collection of cards. She has participated in Rocklin, California's annual "Artrageous" art show with proceeds going to the Visual and Performing Arts Programs.

Sheryl has impressed admirers and collectors with her paintings. Her art has been accepted in juried art competitions, with Sheryl winning numerous awards, including "Best of Show." Her artwork is hung in several art galleries and she has been featured in a one-woman show. Sheryl's commissioned art of landscapes, seascapes, portraits and wildlife is sought after by collectors.

"I appreciate the comprehensive instruction offered by Art Instruction Schools. The critique provided by the instructors became more and more useful as I continued through each series of lessons. I believe a big part of my success as an artist is due to the in-depth training I received from Art Instruction Schools."



Scott G. Thompson Minneapolis, Minnesota

. . . an energetic champion for education

After quickly rising through the ranks in a large Fortune-500 corporation, Mr. Scott Thompson decided to earn his MBA in order to take his career to the next level. While working full-time, Scott completed his MBA from Aspen University, graduating *summa cum laude* with a 4.0 GPA.

Scott is a champion of lifelong learning and advocates that education should continue throughout one's lifetime. Although Scott is driven in his career, he firmly believes one should be careful not define oneself as being only a string of accomplishments, and instead should strive to maintain a healthy balance in one's personal life.

Aspen University's MBA program strengthens leadership skills, as Scott asserts, "Anyone can steer a boat, but it takes a leader to chart the course." Scott personally sold \$22 million in new business in 2007, and is involved in multiple charities. Scott was recently elected to the position of Communications Officer of the Aspen University Alumni Association.

"The MBA program was world-class and refined my abilities to strategically plan, set, and achieve organizational goals from concept to completion. This degree program provided the necessary information, structure, and tools that busy professionals need in order to compete and win in today's fast-paced business world."

Pamela Heyen Columbia, Missouri

... respected by friends, family,
and colleagues



After a profound experience restoring her own health using natural therapies, Ms. Pamela Heyen decided to enroll in Australasian College of Health Sciences' (ACHS) program so she could learn to help others take control of their health and teach them to live a better quality of life. She graduated with Honors in September 2007 from ACHS's Diploma in Holistic Health Practice program.

In ACHS's program, Pamela focused on holistic health sciences, learning how the body systems work together and holistic protocols to help clients live a healthier life. Since her graduation, she has opened a holistic health practice working directly with clients, advising them on personal health issues and recommending lifestyle changes for wellness.

Pamela publishes a series of articles called "Creating Your Healthy Life" on natural health related and social networking sites as well as her own blog and web site, www.HeyenWellnessTherapies.com. In November 2008, she was also interviewed on the Angelic Inspiration Radioshow. Her friends, family and colleagues all respect her for returning to school at age 50 and now starting her successful new career.

"Natural health therapies gave me the tools to regain my health, but the ACHS program gave me a new passion for living life again!"



Joachim Wernersbach Dittelsheim-Hessloch, Germany

. . . the university helped him to
prioritize his values

After a successful career in business management, Joachim Wernersbach radically restructured his life to focus on matters of faith and ethics. The Catholic Distance University (CDU) helped him to prioritize his values for this “new beginning.” While graduating with a 4.0 grade point average, his thoughtful reasoning and sound writing skills make him an outstanding example of CDU’s entire student body.

Joachim has studied in Germany and the United States, earning a bachelor’s degree (*magna cum laude*) from the University of Illinois. He has spent his career years as an upper level administrator for Porex Corporation, the market leader in the manufacture and distribution of porous plastics. Following the fall of the Berlin wall, Joachim was instrumental in establishing a manufacturing company in what had formerly been Communist East Germany.

Since 2004 he has concentrated on his theological studies and on tending his family’s vineyards in Germany. Joachim takes active parish leadership roles in music and liturgy, administration, and inter-parish coordination.

“CDU is such a spiritual enrichment and a wonderful school! It feels as though I have come home. Every course has been truly rewarding and

Brian Grellinger Alpharetta, Georgia



... his job performance was enhanced by applying his new knowledge

Mr. Brian Grellinger began his educational career in 1977, but with his job, family and personal commitments he was not able to finish his education. He decided to obtain an AAS degree in Computer Information Technology and Systems Management with Cleveland Institute of Electronics. Brian completed his degree in four years and with a 97% average.

Mr. Brian Grellinger is employed by Doosan Infracore America Corporation in Suwanee GA. He is the General Manager of Information Systems and is responsible for all servers, hardware, software, WAN, and telecommunications for North America.

Brian knows that he must continue to stay abreast of technology so he is continuing his education with World College to obtain his Bachelors degree in Computer Information Systems. His employer encouraged him to obtain a degree that broadened his abilities which he returns to his job and two other part-time contract positions. He gives back to his community by participating in local 5K races and he volunteers with Habitat for Humanity to help build houses.

“Since I work lots of hours, travel frequently, and hold 2 part-time contract positions, distance education allowed me to finally achieve my Associate’s degree.”



Forney Howard Orange Beach, Alabama

... he never lost sight of his dreams
of higher education

Mr. Forney Howard understands that life's challenges often get in the way of achieving your goals. In July 2008, at age 62, he completed his bachelor's degree in fire science at Columbia Southern University (CSU) with a 3.95 GPA.

With an absent father and a mother who died when Howard was barely 18 years-old, he was forced to drop out of college and find a source of income. In his search for a steady job, Forney stumbled on the Birmingham, Alabama, Fire Department, where he began his 37 year career in fire service as a rookie plug man.

Although his career path was born out of necessity, he soon realized that the fast-paced lifestyle of a fireman was meant for him. The fire station presented him with a sense of family and his work satisfied his desire to make a difference in the lives of others. Today, Forney serves as Chief of the Orange Beach Fire Department.

"It's never too late to learn. One of my lifelong aspirations has been to complete my degree, and thanks to CSU, I'm there."

Steve Hoffman
Rancho Cucamonga, California



... industry challenges motivated PD to earn his JD

With a long career in an industry that has seen dramatic changes, Mr. Steve Hoffman knew he needed a “Plan B.” Steve has worked in radio since his campus radio station days at UCLA and has watched as economic challenges and new entertainment alternatives impact the industry he loves.

Now the Program Director of KCAL-FM/Riverside, Steve, whose sister is a judge, had always thought about going to law school. Concord Law School suited his schedule and his talents. Going to law school online saved him from those relentless Los Angeles commutes and he excelled in Concord’s live class sessions.

Steve graduated with highest honors, passed the California Bar Exam, and uses his law degree to help his company and radio talent navigate through difficult economic times. He remains active at Concord where he supports first year students and alumni affairs.

“I found the Concord program extremely challenging and extremely invigorating. It was certainly a lot of work, but with that work came a very powerful feeling of accomplishment. Of equal importance, I found the Concord program to be very intelligently crafted and geared toward giving me the knowledge and skills I’d need to pass the Bar and succeed as an attorney.”



Carol Giannoni Racine, Wisconsin

. . . distance education allowed
her to excel in school

After being laid off in October 2003 from a Fortune 500 company, Ms. Carol Giannoni found that most employers were only interested in applicants who had at least a bachelor's degree. At that time she decided to go back to school. Bouncing from one institution to another she found Ellis University and felt like she was home. Carol's efforts in her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources Management degree have allowed her to excel at work.

While working full time and taking two to three times the normal course load, Carol was able to graduate with a 3.81 GPA. Her decision to study Human Resources Management allows her to work closely with the head of recruiting to on-board new hires. She is responsible for facilitating training for new hires and serving as a resource for the new employees and their managers.

Outside of work, she enjoys volunteering for the Red Cross and spending time with her family.

"My confidence level has increased tremendously since enrolling in the program at Ellis. I have noticed it, and others often comment on the change as well. In addition to being Ellis University's first graduate, I'm proud to say that I earned my degree from Ellis."

Brian W. Schubert
Scottsdale, Arizona



. . . his education has turned him into a marketable and skilled employee

Mr. Brian W. Schubert is an employee at Fast-Fix Jewelry and Watch Repairs in Chandler, AZ. He has been with them for over three years during which time the idea of attending the Gemological Institute of America was conveyed to him by his employer. The distance education format was best for Brian as it allowed him to maintain his full-time schedule at Fast-Fix while attending online classes throughout the week.

While Brian was earning his Jewelry Business Management diploma, he was promoted to Assistant Manager. A promotion to Store Manager followed after completing GIA's Accredited Jewelry Professional diploma program. Brian says that his GIA education is evident in every aspect of his job. It not only stimulated success for him and his employer, but it also instilled a positive image in the industry and their franchise.

Brian feels that his greatest contribution to the jewelry industry is being able to educate customers. Whether it is the lore, value, process of creation, or journey of a piece of jewelry, Brian's GIA education has prepared him to communicate these details to his customers.

"GIA has given me the skills and knowledge to successfully manage a jewelry repair business. Being associated with GIA carries much clout and I highly recommend it to anyone looking to further their jewelry career."



Walter Smith
St. Marys, Georgia

. . . degree was the best way to break through professional glass-ceiling

Mr. Walter “Cal” Smith enrolled at Grantham University to complete a degree that would help him advance in his field. In May 2008, Cal earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, graduating *summa cum laude* with a 4.0 GPA.

Work restrictions forced Cal to use vacation time for class attendance, rendering traditional university programs virtually useless. Grantham’s flexible distance learning format overcame these obstacles and allowed him to shift time and effort between work and school.

While completing his degree, Cal served in several security roles safeguarding nuclear weapons, nuclear explosive devices, special nuclear materials and classified materials. He designed and deployed the first “Virtual Fence Line” extended-range intrusion detection system used to protect nuclear weapons for the Department of Energy. After graduation, Cal was actively recruited for a new job with a significant increase in responsibility and compensation. He currently works for Sandia National Laboratories, assisting the U.S. Navy as a technical advisor for strategic weapons protection at Submarine Base Kings Bay in Georgia.

“Grantham University gave me the flexibility I needed to sustain a job, a family, and complete a technical, accredited bachelor’s degree.”

Katherine Watson Sauk City, Wisconsin

... she loves to learn



Ms. Katherine Watson received her high school diploma from The Hadley School for the Blind's High School Program and supplemented her Hadley courses with home schooling. Katherine, who has retrolental fibroplasia retinopathy, completed coursework towards her diploma in December 2007.

After graduating from Hadley, Watson enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to pursue a bachelor's degree in journalism. Katherine loves to write and interview others and enjoys reporting that "tells it like it is." She is a contributing student writer for the University's *Royal Purple* newspaper.

Katherine is involved with a Wisconsin-based blind student division, which provides opportunities for networking, advice and recreation; they share expertise on everything from getting class materials to rock climbing to matching clothes into outfits. She plans to write materials, including a brochure, to encourage others to join the group.

"I felt my education was as important to my instructors as it was to me. I would recommend The Hadley School for the Blind to anyone who aspires to earn a high school diploma or who simply loves to learn."



Debora Heestand Jonesboro, Georgia

. . . she enjoys reading the “fine print”

Ms. Debora Heestand entered the Institute of Logistical Management’s challenging Certified Logistics Practitioners Program, (CLP) and completed a normally three year program in approximately 18 months, while achieving academic honors. She excelled in the most challenging course, “Transportation Law,” written by one of the most noteworthy Transportation lawyers in America. Debora is one of those “gifted” individuals who instinctively enjoys reading the “fine print” that is associated with so many aspects of our daily lives.

This inquisitiveness led Debora to achieve an academic degree in Criminal Justice, a Certification as a Private Investigator, and is also a professional licensed commercial driver, including times when she was an over-the-road truck driver.

She is a master at “multi-tasking,” and for the past several years has worked for Cooper Lighting of Peachtree City, GA in the professional capacity of Senior Freight Disposition Coordinator, a key managerial position for a lighting business, while simultaneously joining her husband in raising three children.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the courses at ILM, and the ability to use distance learning was a great way to accommodate my personal and professional goals.”

Sergeant Andrew M. Adkins

Pretoria, Republic of South Africa

... he will use his new skills throughout his Marine Corps career and beyond



Sergeant Andrew M. Adkins, while working with Region 6 Eastern Africa, American Embassy Security Group, in the Republic of South Africa, adjusted to his new environment with the application of 15 Marine Corps Institute Courses during FY08 that are designed for specific technical billets. With his new knowledge, he helped to train others. He quickly became a valued asset to the embassy and junior Marines in his trust. During this period, Sgt Adkins also was awarded an Associate Degree in General Studies from the University of Phoenix.

Sergeant Adkins is an active duty Marine that still finds time to continue his educational goals and be a top performer at work, mentors his junior Marines and sets the example for all ranks by his educational accomplishments.

His efforts recently helped his unit go from mission capable to mission capable noteworthy, the highest possible grade, during a semi-annual inspection. He also used the knowledge he gained from completing the Individual Measures MCI Course by re-writing the NBC Operation Plan for his Marine Detachment and ensured successful implementation.

“Without the knowledge acquired through Marine Corps Institute’s courses my duties would be substantially more difficult. I have no doubt that I will use these new found skills throughout the remainder of my Marine Corps career and beyond.”



Ron Zincone Richmond, Rhode Island

... he takes lifelong learning seriously

The New York Institute of Photography's Professional Photography course gave Mr. Ron Zincone the skills he needed to get started in professional photography, and to combine his interest in photography with another lifetime avocation—astronomy.

Ron is active in his local astronomy club, the Astronomical Society of Southern New England, and specializes in astrophotography. In addition to selling his prints of beautiful astronomical photographs, Ron has recently taken his knowledge of photography into the classroom. He teaches "Introduction to Basic Night-Sky Photography," at the Providence Learning Connection, which is the first-ever specialized night-sky photography course ever to be offered by in Rhode Island.

Ron operates a successful photography business from his home. While astrophotography is Ron's favorite subject, he frequently takes daytime photographs as well. And he credits NYIP with giving him the skills to take photographs in a variety of different lighting conditions.

"Not only has NYIP provided me a solid foundation on which to build on but has also educated me in being more versatile and self-confident. The professional programs and mentor photographers/teachers are nothing short of dedicated and brilliant!"

Kerry MacPherson

Ocoee, Florida

... she is dedicated to enhancing her knowledge



Ms. Kerry MacPherson entered the program to enhance and strengthen her understanding of the law and how it works. Even before completing the Diploma in Paralegal Studies with The Paralegal Institute, she found herself consulting with attorneys on various tasks.

After completing her education at TPI, Kerry is now drafting terms and condition on corporate agreements, negotiating contract pricing. With her greater understanding of the law, Kerry will be able to train others within the company as well.

The ability for Kerry to complete her program, maintaining a 3.8 GPA, without interrupting her work schedule was of great value. The flexibility of the courses allowed her to focus on her studies on her schedule when the time was available.

“I recommend this program for those looking for a high quality education. The courses are challenging, yet engaging and relevant. The enhanced skills and knowledge obtained from the program was definitely worth the effort and hard work.”



Cheryl Deshotel Bremerton, Washington

. . . distance education allowed her
to achieve her dream

Ms. Cheryl Deshotel graduated in September of 2008. She was among the first ten students to proudly graduate from the Penn Foster Associate Degree in Veterinary Technician program. She is now a licensed Veterinary Technician working with and helping animals daily.

Throughout her life, Cheryl Deshotel has always maintained a love and desire to work with and help animals. As a military spouse of 16 years, moving every two years prohibited her from completing a traditional veterinary technician program. During all those years, she never forgot her dream of working with animals.

In 2005 after returning from Japan, she learned about Penn Foster's distance education Associate Degree in Veterinary Technician Program. It was accredited by the AVMA, incorporated practicum with text learning, and gave her the opportunity to complete her education no matter where she would move next. The curriculum provided the extensive medical knowledge necessary to excel and she found the required practical learning through work experience invaluable training.

"Penn Foster's program allowed me to achieve my dream."

Zaur Ismayilov Baku, Azerbaijan

... distance education gave him
a global perspective



In his hometown of Baku, Azerbaijan, Mr. Zaur Ismayilov felt he had very limited access to a professional-level design education. He knew he needed to build a foundational knowledge of graphic design, but also train his eye to what is globally cutting-edge. Zaur began his Graphic Design Masters Certificate program at Sessions Online School of Design in 2007. Through Sessions, he accessed a worldwide faculty of designers and a range of cultural aesthetics.

Highly motivated to begin his career, Zaur completed his program in just over a year. His passion for typography and branding design distinguished him in his courses, the Student Gallery, and his final portfolio review. Zaur's instructors urged him to launch his portfolio web site, <http://ziglyph.com>. By building a presence for his work online, Zaur can promote himself to worldwide clients in a field where distance need not be a factor.

"I enrolled with Sessions to study graphic design absolutely not feeling sure that I can really be a real graphic designer. But my great instructors, like Laura Schwamb, Joss Parsey, Tom McKenna, Andrew Shalat and many others helped me to think and feel design. They have not only found me talented, but also made me believe that I can successfully handle any design project of any complexity."



Dot Greenlee
McKinney, Texas

... distance education course prepared her for a successful career

Ms. Dot Greenlee made a career change with the kind of leap that many people only dream of. She had worked for twenty years in the semiconductor and passive electronic Components industry when she started to make a dramatic career change by enrolling in the Sheffield School of Interior Design and pursuing her real creative passion. Now she owns her own successful design business, My Decorator LLC.

Dot married her husband, Tim, four years ago, combining their families for a total of five kids. Despite her incredibly busy family life, Sheffield's flexibility allowed her to pursue her education during her spare time. After graduating from Sheffield in April, 2006, Dot started networking in order to build her portfolio of work. By December, she was working for a client with a million-dollar home.

That project led to new referrals, and Dot's business continues to expand and grow. She's currently in the process of completing another large redecoration project, and she's active in the local Interior Design Society chapter.

"The Sheffield Course is so worth the investment and the time. The attention to detail that the course teaches is what sets me apart from others. I love making clients' decorating dreams come true, and being able to help people make a house into a home."

Joshua Blackson

Tonopah, Arizona

. . . his interests led him to a new career



Mr. Joshua Blackson always had an interest in architecture and owning his own business. After graduating with a degree in Global Business from Arizona State University, he decided he didn't want to go back to school for a degree in architecture. He also knew he would have to work full time to pay off the bills he had accumulated. As he researched what he wanted to do, he found Sonoran Desert Institute's Home Inspection diploma program. The Home Inspector distance education course appealed to Joshua because it allowed him to work full time and complete his education at the same time.

Joshua's interests include anything outdoors, be it sports, big game hunting, or "do it yourself" projects. He has assisted friends and family with many construction projects such as building decks, patios, carports, and garages, as well as pouring concrete, building block walls and installing air conditioning systems. He enjoys being able to see the progress one can make from a hard day's labor. He credits his experiences in these jobs or projects for giving him a strong foundation for becoming a qualified Home Inspector.

"Sonoran Desert Institute's Home Inspection program allows students to work at their own pace to receive top notch training on their road to becoming an educated and qualified Home Inspector."



Daniel Spagone Charleston, South Carolina

... he found distance education the most
military-friendly way to learn

Commander Daniel Spagone proudly completed his Bachelor of Business Administration Degree Program with the University of Management and Technology (UMT) in September of 2008 and assumed full command of the U.S. Naval Consolidated Brig in Charleston, SC, that December.

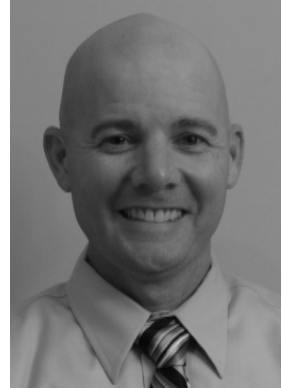
His three decades of service show a patriot's devotion to his country and a love of learning. Dan was an Honor Student and was twice "Sailor of the Year," from submarine Electrician's Mate on to Surface Warfare Officer School Command as Director of Engineering and Material Readiness, and Curriculum Instructional Standards Officer.

But it wasn't always this way. Born into urban poverty and a 10th-grade drop-out, Dan was invited to live with the family of a Salvation Army minister on the condition that he go back to school and attend church. Thus he graduated from high school and went to college on a scholarship. However, he joined the Navy before finishing his degree.

"I was asked why I was working so hard for a degree I didn't really need for career advancement. My answer was always the same—I take college courses to better myself, not my career. Struggling through the process of coursework completion makes me a better person, father, husband, and Naval Officer. If you want a better career, make a better you."

Todd Vaughn
Marion, Illinois

... he is dedicated to lifelong learning



Dr. Todd Vaughn completed the clinical Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences with a 4.00 GPA. With his dedication to lifelong learning, he directed his studies towards clinical expertise in manual and orthopaedic physical therapy. His diligence to being a distance education student was evident with his ability to interact with his professors and peers in a professional and caring manner.

Since graduation, Todd has published scholarly work in two different journals and has submitted his current research for further publication including *Spine*, *Physical Therapy* and *Health Care Manager*. He also received the “School of Allied Health Research Paper of the Year Award.”

Todd teaches physical therapy at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and coordinates Physical Therapy services at the Student Health Center. He is also a Senior Lecturer in the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

“Online learning provided me the opportunity to enhance my skills as I continued to practice the profession of Physical Therapy. The advanced course work has been instrumental in my professional development and beneficial in every aspect of my career.”



Kimberly Crump Barling, Arkansas

. . . she achieved her goal of becoming
a career woman

Ms. Kimberly Crump worked as an accountant for about 13 years with only a high school diploma. After the end of her 12-year marriage, at 34 years old, and realizing she would be the sole provider for her one-year-old son, she decided to further her education. She enrolled in the Medical Claims and Billing program with U.S. Career Institute.

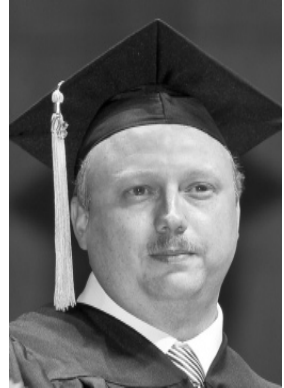
In only two months of study, Kimberly graduated from U.S. Career Institute in August 2005, with a GPA of 97%. Soon after, Kimberly started her home-based medical claims and billing business. By following the marketing guidelines outlined in her course, she was able to attract many clients.

Kimberly attends many local events in her community, including the *business-to-business connection banquets*. The Chamber of Commerce awarded her a Small Business Award in appreciation for her attendance at events that encourage growth in their community. Kimberly has high expectations for herself and her business.

“The decision to invest in the Medical Claims and Billing program with U.S. Career Institute was one of the most assured decisions of my life. I wouldn’t have achieved my personal goals if it were not for their team. I found the course to be flexible and available to my schedule and will forever recommend them and distance education.”

Roger Osborne Fairborn, Ohio

. . . distance education was perfect
for a busy father of four



Mr. Roger Osborne wanted to make sure the school he selected not only had a B.S. in Information Technology program, but one that also held the necessary mix of regional and national accreditations. Western Governors University fit the bill completely.

Roger is married and the father of four daughters. He is also the Information Systems Supervisor with the *Area Agency on Aging* in Dayton, OH. Additionally, he is a part-time business entrepreneur, offering computer services to small businesses in his area. His busy schedule prevented him from attending traditional classes.

WGU's competency-based curriculum was the perfect fit for Roger. Having been in the Information Technology field for more than 15-years, and having existing relevant certifications such as Network+, MCSE and MCSA, Osborne was able to complete the entire *Bachelor of Science degree – Network Design & Management* in just six short months!

“WGU was the perfect fit for my busy schedule. And their innovative approach to learning enabled me to make the most of my online education. Since graduating, I have been fielding offers from several large companies – opportunities that would not have been available had I not received my WGU degree.”



Rebecca L. Farlow Rochester, Pennsylvania

... distance education was necessary
because of her position

Ms. Rebecca Farlow earned her associates degree from a technical institute, but her military career and job requirements necessitated the flexibility of distance education to continue her educational goals. She enrolled with World College in 2004 and completed her Bachelors degree in Electronics Engineering Technology in 2008 with an accumulated grade point average of 3.3 or Cum Laude.

Rebecca works for Benschaw Inc., in Glenshaw, PA, in Quality Assurance of Advanced Motion Controls and Drives. She also serves as an Executive Office of Logistical Support in the National Guard. She was deployed with the National Guard in 2004-05, where she demonstrated her commitment to her career, education and country.

Rebecca realized the importance of a bachelor degree for her to gain promotions in the National Guard and to advance within her civilian job as a Field Service Technician. Her degree provided her with new opportunities with other departments at her civilian job and in approximately six months the degree will contribute to her promotion within the National Guard.

“Distance education became more critical during my military deployment. The flexibility that distance education allows was a significant asset.”

Famous Alumni

Kathy L. McDaniel Texarkana, Arkansas

... AHIMA helped her to achieve her goal
of working from home



Mrs. Kathy McDaniel has been in the healthcare field for 35 years but decided that she wanted to make a change that would allow her to be closer to her husband and possibly work from home during his retirement. Kathy became interested in oncology and cancer registry management. Her daughter-in-law, who was attending a Cancer Registry Management Program locally, suggested the Cancer Registry Management (CRM) program offered at the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). The Online Program at AHIMA would allow her to continue to work and complete the courses she would need to become a Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR).

Kathy is married with three children and ten grandchildren and works from home as a CTR. She felt that taking online courses would be a good option for her. She moved through the CTR program at AHIMA rather quickly and held an A average throughout the program.

Within one year of beginning the CRM program, Kathy completed the program and passed the CTR exam, becoming a Certified Tumor Registrar. She found a CTR job while enrolled in the AHIMA Cancer Registry Management Program.

“AHIMA’s Cancer Registry Management Program helped me to achieve my goals.”

Famous Alumni



Brett C. Winterble Simi Valley, California

. . . distance education helped him
earn his degree

Mr. Brett Winterble was a producer with Clear Channel Communications when the attacks of 9/11 occurred. Immediately, he set himself on a mission to learn all he could about the security environment. He knew he needed flexible training and formalized training. He discovered the American Military University (AMU) of American Public University System (APUS). Four years later, he graduated with honors with a Master of Arts in Homeland Security.

While at APUS, Brett studied and researched counterintelligence, terrorism, the 3/1 bombings in Madrid, Spain, and the growing threat from international street gangs, North Korean proliferation, Japanese Rearmament, and even the roots of the U.S. Eco-terror movement. Brett graduated with a 3.8 G.P.A.

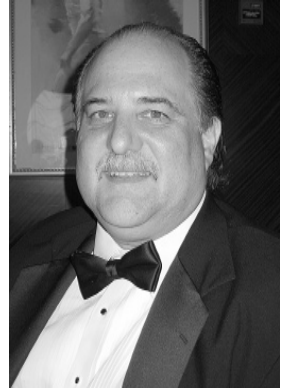
Brett is a 20+ year veteran of radio and television and has taken his experiences in radio and his training at AMU and married the two: via the launch of Covert Radio, the only daily radio program committed to the issues of national security and international affairs. The show is in Los Angeles and as a daily pod cast at CovertRadioShow.Com.

AMU's program enabled me to balance a very busy personal and professional life with the education I needed to achieve my goals.

Famous Alumni

Jim Roscovius Sioux City, Iowa

... he believes that one should never stop learning

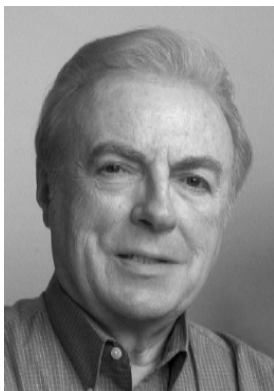


When Mr. Jim Roscovius graduated with his Bachelor's degree in Information Systems from American Sentinel University in 2004, he thought he was finished with the routine of studying for a while. However, after teaching an Operating Systems class at a local university, Jim decided that teaching was his desire. In 2005, Jim enrolled in the Master of Science in Information Systems program in the hopes of opening more doors in both the face-to-face and online teaching worlds.

Jim is married with two children and currently teaches in the Computer Science department at Briar Cliff University. He excelled throughout his undergraduate program graduating with high honors. He is scheduled to graduate with his Master's degree in June of 2009.

"While at ASU, Jim received the Richard W. Oliver Merit Award for originality of thought and thoroughness of study. He is also a member of the Student and Alumni Council and ASU's chapter of the Delta Epsilon Tau international honor society. Currently, Jim serves as president of the Board of Education for a local private school, and can be seen in various theatrical performances for the local community theater."

Famous Alumni



Dick Bobnick Burnsville, Minnesota

. . . distance education course gave him a strong start to a fulfilling career

Mr. Dick Bobnick began drawing at age five. His artistic momentum kept building, and at age 15 he entered Art Instruction Schools “Draw Me” competition and was soon enrolled. Dick has been a successful illustrator for more than 30 years. Dick is well known for his celebrity portrait work.

In 1985, Dick was selected to create the illustrations for ads in *USA Today*, heralding President Reagan’s second inaugural. In 1996, he was commissioned to create portraits of the four presidential candidates. He has done a series of superstar portraits, including Kirby Puckett, with the Puckett illustration selected for inclusion in the prestigious illustration West 35th Annual Exhibit held in Los Angeles. His portrait of golf legend Sam Snead was chosen as the official portrait for the Professional Golf Association’s Hall of Fame.

In 1999, Franklin Mint released a Limited Edition Heirloom collector plate honoring Mother Teresa from one of Dick’s paintings. The Franklin Mint selected Dick’s stunning portrait of Marilyn Monroe for the inside covers of their special limited edition of Joyce Carol Oates’ best seller, *BLONDE*. He completed two 6 collector plate series commemorating the James Bond films and the *Gunsmoke* television series.

“Enrolling in AIS was a strong start to a very fulfilling career. I learned a lot about perspective, proportion and realistic drawing.”

Famous Alumni

Wendy Robbins Lincoln Park, Michigan

. . . she's living her passion



Ms. Wendy Robbins found a field that held her passion – aromatherapy. Her passion developed in the late 1990s and continued to grow, but she lacked a formal education in the field. She had researched schools and courses and determined that the Australasian College of Health Sciences (ACHS) offered the course of study to meet her needs. Wendy began the Certificate in Aromatherapy program in 1999 and graduated in 2000 from the professional Certificate program.

Wendy credits ACHS with giving her a solid foundation in aromatherapy and bridging the gaps in her knowledge of aromatherapy. As a result she was able to launch her web site, AromaWeb.com. Since its launch, AromaWeb has grown to become what many consider to be the world's largest and most popular informational aromatherapy Web site.

Wendy feels immense pride and empowerment when her online visitors contact her and share how AromaWeb has been an integral part of their discovery of aromatherapy and how their journey has led them to a formal education and career in the field.

"I feel immensely rewarded that through AromaWeb, I am able to utilize my knowledge and foundation in aromatherapy to introduce the concepts of holistic aromatherapy to thousands of individuals each year!"

Famous Alumni



Mary Gay Moore
Virginia Beach, Virginia

. . . studies helped her to become
an author

Mary Gay Moore graduated with a master's degree in theology, *magna cum laude*, from The Catholic Distance University in 2007. She was chosen as CDU's outstanding alumna in part because of the publication of her first book, *An Advent of Understanding*, published by Resurrection Press in 2007.

Gay earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from Rosemont College in Pennsylvania, married a Marine officer, and embarked on a career as a Marine wife, raising two children in 17 locations in 26 years. When her husband died in 2005, Gay was halfway through her program of study. Knowing that John, her husband and college history professor, would urge her to continue earning her degree, she completed her coursework.

At the same time, she recorded her feelings of sadness in a journal. Her reflections provided the basis for her first book she authored about approaching Christmas through the experience of grief.

"Love of God, interest in the Church, and curiosity about learning were part of what led me to CDU. It had everything I was looking for. It let me earn a master's degree in theology without a residency requirement, and allowed me to study independently."

Famous Alumni

Eric Holsti Monterrey, California

... distance education made it possible for him to earn a degree



The online degree programs offered at Columbia Southern University (CSU) made it possible for Eric Holsti to earn his degree while pursuing an aviation career with the U.S. Navy. In 2007, he earned a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in project management from CSU. He graduated cum laude with a 4.0 GPA.

While still in high school, Eric enrolled in the delayed entry program as an aviation electronics technician, beginning his 22 year Navy career where he now serves as a lieutenant commander. Serving in Sicily, Louisiana, and California, his career has taken him around the world.

Recently Eric completed *A Lean Six Sigma Analysis of the United States Navy Consolidated Maintenance Organization Program*, a study that analyzes the Navy's performance and results of pre and post implementation of the Consolidated Maintenance Organization Structure. The outcomes of this study will be published in a book issued for release in January 2009. He also authored a white paper entitled, *Lean Six Sigma in the Navy* which illustrates the U.S. Navy's strategy in incorporating Lean Six Sigma practices and ideas into organizations.

"Balancing a family life, military career, and a master's degree program wasn't easy. Flexible courses and no residency requirement allowed me to earn my degree without putting my life on hold."

Famous Alumni



Michael and Susan Chorost

New Providence, New Jersey

... distance education propelled them onto parallel paths of success and fulfillment

Mr. Michael Chorost, born with a hearing loss, received his first hearing aids when he was three and a half years old. Linguistically, he was three years behind his hearing peers. In an era when deaf children rarely read beyond a fifth grade level, his mother Susan was devastated. With a spoken language program for deaf children unavailable in their area, Susan turned to John Tracy Clinic's (JTC) distance education program, known as the Correspondence Course, where she crammed three years' worth of language development into about six months. This intensive work enabled her son to be mainstreamed by age five and continue on to college, earning his Ph.D. from the University of Texas. Simultaneously, the worldclass coursework at JTC gave Susan the background to pursue a career as a professional teacher of the deaf.

Michael is visiting professor at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. His first book, *Rebuilt* (Houghton Mifflin), earned him the prestigious PEN USA's 2006 Award for Creative Nonfiction. Susan Chorost is Assistive Technology Coordinator at Summit Speech School in New Providence, NJ, and a regular contributor to technical journals in the field.

"John Tracy Clinic's correspondence course became my lifeline."
Susan Chorost. *"It was personalized instruction and mentorship of extraordinary quality."* Michael Chorost

Famous Alumni

Leslie G. Billman Annapolis, Maryland



... practicing law wasn't challenging enough for her

Ms. Leslie Billman credits her grandfather, a black-and-white photographer, with giving her a love of photography. But not until digital cameras became widely available did she decide to explore photography as a profession. She decided to get some formal training with the New York Institute of Photography's Complete Course, which allowed her to study at home and maintain her demanding schedule.

NYI's comprehensive program helped her become a nationally recognized sports photographer specializing in professional tennis. Her work has appeared in a host of media outlets; including *Sports Illustrated*, *Tennis Magazine*, *ESPN Magazine*, and the *Oprah Winfrey Show*.

One recent accomplishment was the opportunity to photograph the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament. In 2006, Leslie published a book on Pete Sampras's induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, which is now in the Hall of Fame archives. In addition, Leslie regularly photographs sporting events for a wire service, a newspaper, and a tennis magazine, in addition to continuing her successful law career.

"The course was great. I was assigned to a terrific advisor who patiently answered an endless barrage of questions, referred me to resources, and who slathered on me either praise or criticism, depending on which was warranted."

Famous Alumni



Timothy J. Krawczel
Cape Charles, Virginia

... distance education gave him the skills to remain competitive

In his civilian career, Tim Krawczel was a county government Director of Planning and Community Development and had retired from the US Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel with thirty years of service and overseas deployments to Europe, Korea, Bosnia and Iraq when he applied to the University of Management and Technology's MPA program. After returning home from service in Iraq as the Deputy Senior Advisor to the new Ministry of Environment, Tim hoped to retool his technical skills and deepen his understanding of management.

Tim and his wife had raised four children, and he had earned a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning, and written award-winning comprehensive plans for local communities when the desire to study political philosophies, leadership and management motivated him to look for a new program of graduate study. After back-to-back year-long deployments in the global war on terrorism, a full time job and the needs of family life, Tim thought a second master's degree was a dream that could not happen. UMT provided a learning opportunity that fit his needs.

"I am using the knowledge and skills gained through UMT's graduate program to begin a new chapter in my career of public service."

The logo for the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC) consists of the letters "DETC" in a blue, serif font, centered within a white rectangular box. The box has a subtle drop shadow effect.

DETC

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